

Iranian health minister visits Baghdad hospitals

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iran's Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi visited several hospitals here Saturday and discussed future co-operation with Iraq, which is facing a shortage of medicines, the official INA news agency said. Mr. Marandi, who arrived in Baghdad Thursday for a visit of several days, met Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Sabah and the two men expressed "their countries' desire to normalise relations at all levels." Ties between the two Muslim neighbours are still strained, nine years after the U.N. cease-fire in their 1980-1988 conflict, mainly over the issue of prisoners from the war. Mr. Marandi previously visited Iraq in August.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الواي"

Syndicate presidents will not resign

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Professional Associations' presidents Saturday unanimously decided not to go ahead with their resignations. The Council's President Abdul Rahim Issa said that the council had decided to submit resignations last month. Dr. Issa said the council adopted the decision in a meeting held at the Professional Union's Complex yesterday.

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Palestinians shot and wounded in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Two Palestinians were shot and wounded by unknown gunmen in the West Bank village of Nabi Samuel on Saturday, an Israeli army spokesman said. The village chief (mukhtar) and his son were hit by gunfire and taken to an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem, said the spokesman, adding that the reason for the attack was unclear. He said initial findings suggested the shooting may be linked to a clan dispute in the village north of Jerusalem. Israeli television said the mukhtar may have been implicated in selling land to Israelis. Three Palestinians alleged to have sold land in the West Bank and east Jerusalem to Israelis have been found executed in the past month.

Israeli planes strike southern Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Israeli warplanes rocketed suspected Hizbollah targets in southern Lebanon Saturday, security sources said. Two planes fired a total of two rockets at Mila in the Iqlim Al Toufah mountain ridge which is controlled by the pro-Iranian guerrillas and lies just north of Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone, the sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage in the raid, the 40th by Israeli planes on Lebanon this year. The security sources said the air raid was followed by Israeli shelling. On Wednesday, Israeli warplanes rocketed suspected Hizbollah targets in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled eastern Bekaa Valley. Hizbollah is fighting to oust Israeli troops and their allied militiamen from the 15 kilometres deep south Lebanon zone set up to prevent cross-border attacks on northern Israel.

The seven powers pledge \$300m for Chernobyl

DENVER (AFP) — The world's seven leading industrial powers on Saturday agreed here to create a \$300 million fund to help build a sarcophagus that will permanently seal the damaged Chernobyl nuclear reactor in Ukraine, sources said. The seven also will appeal to other leading nations to contribute to the sarcophagus project, the same sources indicated. The declaration concerning Chernobyl was signed only by the seven because Russia — which is present in Denver — is not allowed to participate in financial discussions. According to Western experts, the cost of securing Chernobyl's nuclear reactor number four, which exploded in 1986, could reach \$758 million.

Iraqi singer escapes murder attempt

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's most popular singer, Kazem Al Sahir, escaped a murder attempt while driving to Baghdad from Jordan to sing for President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, Babel newspaper said Saturday. It said Mr. Sahir, who has been living outside Iraq for the last two years, was shot Wednesday by bearded assailants on the desert highway between the Jordanian border and Baghdad.

Seventeen Palestinians injured in eighth day of violence in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Seventeen Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers in street battles on Saturday, the eighth straight day of unrest in this West Bank town.

Palestinian youths hurled rocks and petrol bombs at soldiers who responded by firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas, witnesses said.

Six of the injured were taken to hospital while 11 were treated on the spot, the witnesses said, adding that one Palestinian was also arrested.

Jewish settlers also threw rocks at the offices of the Palestinian National

Authority (PNA) responsible for religious property, hitting two Palestinians in front of the building.

Hebron, frequently a flashpoint for violence, has been the scene of daily clashes since Saturday. More than 170 Palestinians have been wounded, at least seven seriously, while eight Israeli soldiers suffered injuries from rocks.

Two Palestinian youths were critically wounded in clashes in Hebron on Friday after being struck on the head by rubber bullets, hospital officials said.

The Palestinians are protesting against the hard-

Egypt says Arabs fed up with Israel's sweet talk

CAIRO (R) — Israel's Arab partners in Middle East negotiations are fed up with Israeli sweet talk which has no substance, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in an interview published on Saturday. Mr. Musa, whose country is at the centre of attempts to revive substantial talks between Israel and the Palestinians, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not appear to have any new ideas on how to break the deadlock in the talks.

The same applied to talks with Syria, which have been suspended since early last year, he told the international Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

This week Mr. Netanyahu met European Union (EU) envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos, who was also due to visit Damascus.

Asked if Mr. Netanyahu gave Mr. Moratinos a message for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Musa said: "Maybe, but we us

U.N. Security Council fails to agree on Iraq army travel ban

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council broke off consultations on a draft resolution Friday after failing to reach agreement on an international travel ban targeting the Iraqi military.

The U.S. and British delegations have submitted a draft resolution to protest Iraq's continued obstruction of U.N. arms inspectors.

But Russia, which is opposed to new sanctions, Friday submitted its own draft to the 15-nation Security Council. The Russian draft condemned Iraq's defiance of the U.N. inspectors and demanded immediate and full cooperation, but failed to order any punitive

action. Diplomats said that delegations were consulting with capitals before resuming the discussions which were expected to continue on Saturday, although no time was set.

British and U.S. delegations would continue to be in touch with Russian and French diplomats in a bid to reach agreement on their original text. Western diplomats said. Egypt was, however, refusing to negotiate on the U.S.-British text.

Also Friday, Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun wrote to the Russian President of the Security Council, Ambassador Sergei Lavrov, to "reiterate Iraq's commitment to full cooperation with the special com-

U.N.'s deputy disarmament chief visits Iraq

MANAMA (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq travelled to Baghdad Saturday amid an escalating war of words between the two sides.

Charles Duelfer, the deputy of UNSCOM chairman Rolf Ekeus, will be in Baghdad for four days. UNSCOM officials at the mission's rear base in Bahrain said: "Mr. Ekeus asked Wednesday for a 'firm reaction' from the U.N. Security Council after Iraqi officials last week prevented his inspectors from visiting military sites."

UNSCOM inspectors are tracking down Iraqi weapons of mass destruction in line with U.N. resolutions adopted after the 1991 Gulf war.

lutions which provide for immediate and full access to military sites by inspectors wish to visit.

The latest draft resolution (Continued on page 7)

Turkey's Yilmaz calls on Ciller to forge 'Islamist-free' alliance

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister-designate Mesut Yilmaz launched his bid on Saturday to forge a workable "Islamist-free" coalition government with a plea for unity among Turkey's fractious secularist parties.

Mr. Yilmaz, a pro-Western conservative, convened a meeting of top aides from his opposition Motherland Party for talks before consultations with party leaders begin early next week.

At a news conference he called for his conservative rivals in the True Path Party, currently allied with the Islamists of outgoing Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, to support his bid.

"We are offering all our True Path friends the opportunity to put their

mistake behind them," he told reporters. "If they do not take this hand of friendship and seek to change their coalition's make-up, history will not forgive them."

Already, Mr. Yilmaz has vowed to return to the presidential palace by June 30 — well ahead of the 45 days accorded to him under Turkish law — with a cabinet list he says can win a vote of confidence and shut the door on the Islamists.

But before that, the 50-year-old conservative must overcome the personal rivalries that divide the secularist parties of the left and right, opening the door in the first place to outgoing leader Mr. Erbakan and his Islam-based Welfare Party.

Mr. Yilmaz, greeted at party headquarters by several hundred well-wishers chanting "Prime Minister Mesut," said he was ready to cooperate with all parties save the Islamists, whom he accused of sowing discontent during their one year in office.

The Motherland Party fields just 129 MPs in the 550-seat parliament. Even with the backing of the two main leftist parties he would need substantial defections from the True Path to win a vote of confidence.

Mr. Yilmaz told the private ATV Channel on Friday evening that the formation of a right-wing alliance was only blocked by Tansu Ciller's personal animosity for him.

"The only obstacle to this is the negative attitude of Tansu Ciller to me for personal reasons," he said from the garden of his Ankara residence, hours after President Suleyman Demirel handed him the mandate to form Turkey's 55th government.

Ms. Ciller — who outraged the secularist establishment by entering into a coalition with the Islamists after pledging not to do so — reacted angrily to Mr. Yilmaz's appointment.

"This is a coup struck against the republic's parliamentary regime. It is shameful," Ms. Ciller told reporters after a meeting with senior True Path officials on Saturday.

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish army withdraws troops from northern Iraq — military

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish military said Saturday it had withdrawn most of its troops from northern Iraq after a five-week operation in which it dealt a "crushing blow" to separatist Turkish Kurds based there.

"Most of the troops have been pulled back into Turkey after reaching military objectives," the Turkish general staff said in a statement.

"Only a sufficient number of troops have remained in

northern Iraq in support of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)," an Iraqi Kurdish group allied with the Turkish Army against the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), it said.

A total of 2,601 PKK members and 99 Turkish troops have been killed in clashes in northern Iraq since May 14 when the army entered the area, it added. The PKK said last week that its losses were fewer than 200.

"All PKK bases in north-

ern Iraq have been destroyed and the terrorists have been prevented from realising their plans to gain control of the area," the military said.

The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, said in a statement Friday that the massive military incursion by Turkey which was about to end "after dealing a crushing blow" to the PKK.

Turkey sent up to 30,000 troops into the mountains of northern Iraq last month to root out the PKK rebels

who were making regular incursions into Turkey from across the border.

The PKK has been fighting since 1984 to set up an independent Kurdish state. Thousands have been killed in the conflict which has seen both sides condemned for human rights violations.

The Turkish incursion was condemned by the U.N. secretary-general and criticised by Baghdad, Iran and most of the Arab World.

Majali discusses pan-Arab issues with Sheikh Zayed

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday arrived in Abu Dhabi for a three-day official visit during which he will hold talks on inter-Arab relations and regional and international issues of common concern to Jordan and the Arab Gulf emirate.

Upon arrival, Dr. Majali discussed with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan bilateral relations, issues of common concern as well as pan-Arab matters.

Sheikh Zayed said that Jordan and the UAE share identical views regarding several regional issues, adding that Dr. Majali's visit will strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

He also called on reaching Arab solidarity in order to unify stands and face challenges.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi told Jordan Television before the prime minister's departure that Dr. Majali is making the visit at the invitation of UAE.

"During the visit which is mainly aimed at further strengthening Jordan's relations with the UAE, Dr. Majali will discuss the latest developments in the region, and matters which the two sides believe will further enhance bilateral ties and agreements in economic and other fields," said Dr. Mutawi.

The prime minister is accompanied on the visit by the minister of transport

and telecommunications, Bassam Saket, as well as Dr. Mutawi and the Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Ziyad Fariz.

Also Saturday Dr. Majali asserted that Jordan will participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Summit which is due to be held in the Qatari capital Doha in November.

In an interview with Qatari papers, Dr. Majali denied earlier reports that Saudi Arabia has asked Jordan to slow down its normalisation process with Israel. Also he denied that during his visits to Qatar and Bahrain he will discuss reconciliation between the two countries over their outstanding border dispute.

Six Irish U.N. soldiers injured by Israeli mine in Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) — Six Irish soldiers with the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon were wounded, one seriously, when an Israeli mine exploded on Saturday, a U.N. spokesman said.

"The explosion happened as the soldiers checked for mines on a road next to their position at Beit Yahoun in a south Lebanon border zone occupied by Israel, spokesman Timur Goksel said.

"They were told by Israel (and its proxy militia) the South Lebanon Army (SLA) that the area was clean," Mr. Goksel told

reporters.

The U.N. Interim Force in south Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the Israeli army and its proxy militia put up barbed wire around the Irish position and planted a minefield nearby two months ago, preventing the peacekeepers from moving around freely.

Mr. Goksel said the barbed wire was taken down recently and peacekeepers told that the road was free of mines.

"Yesterday they started the process of checking the road and pulled out four mines. They went today to continue to search the area

and the accident happened," he said.

The wounded soldiers were taken by helicopter to a field hospital at UNIFIL headquarters in the border town of Naqoura, Mr. Goksel said. "Five are okay now but one of them is very seriously injured," he added.

UNIFIL made up of 5,000 troops from nine nations, was dispatched to south Lebanon in 1978 after Israel's first invasion of the region. Its mandate was to help the Lebanese army deploy along the Lebanese-Israeli international borders.

Clinton and Chirac discuss ways to revive peace process

DENVER (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac discussed ways to revive the hobbled Middle East peace Friday, a senior U.S. official said.

National Security Adviser Sandy Berger told reporters the two spent about a quarter of their one-hour meeting on the issue, "both expressing their concern about the fact that the peace process at this point is not moving forward."

"They compared ideas about how that process might be energised," Mr. Berger said, without giving any details.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Chirac met ahead of a summit of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrial nations' annual summit, which opened later.

"The president noted that we're working very actively ... to try first to get Chairman Arafat to resume the full security cooperation that's necessary for the peace process to resume," Mr. Berger said, referring to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

He added that Washington was also seeking to persuade "both parties to make the kinds of commitments that will give them

confidence that if they restored the process and resumed negotiations, that it actually will produce some results."

Israeli-Palestinian talks have been stalled since Israel began construction of a settlement in Arah east Jerusalem in March. The Palestinians have demanded Israel stop construction before they will resume talks.

As a result of the housing dispute, the Palestinian National Authority has withdrawn from security cooperation with the Israelis.



Turkish troops perform a military operation in northern Iraq Friday. Military officials said Saturday that it had withdrawn most of its troops from northern Iraq after a five-week operation to crack down on separatist Turkish Kurds based there (AFP photo)

Musa says Egypt will keep ties with Libya despite U.S. threats

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has vowed to maintain its ties with Libya despite a threat by U.S. senators to cut a hefty military aid package to Cairo because of its relationship with the regime in Tripoli.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa told the Arab newspaper Al Hayat Saturday that Egypt "will not change its policy" towards Libya.

This week the president of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for foreign aid charged Egypt with seeking closer ties to Libyan leader

Muammar Qadhafi and refused to renew the \$2.1 billion U.S. aid package for Cairo granted each year since 1979.

Libya has been under an international arms and air embargo since 1992 for its refusal to extradite to Britain or the United States two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

"As an Arab state Egypt cannot remain neutral towards Libya, while conforming to the judicial framework" Mr. Musa said.

referring to U.N. resolutions calling for the international community to respect the embargo.

"It is clear that the (sub-committee's) position reflects pressures exercised by several pro-Israeli organisations which want to force Egypt to follow a certain line," Mr. Musa said.

Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and has recently taken on the role as mediator in a bid to resume peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians which have

been stalled since mid-March.

Proposing the cut in U.S. aid to Egypt, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell said: "The emerging military, economic and political ties to Colonel Qadhafi reflect Egypt's shift from a partner in peace to an advocate for a terrorist state armed with chemical weapons — a capability which represents a direct threat to U.S. interests."

President Bill Clinton's administration must step in to stop the proposal in Senate debate.

Lebanese-Iraqi ties economic, not political — Bouez

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said in remarks published here Saturday that his country's present relations with Iraq are economic and that it is too early to talk of deeper political ties.

Lebanese businessmen held talks with Iraq's private sector when it became impossible to ignore the suffering of the Iraqi people and after other states opened their borders to Baghdad, Mr. Bouez told the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam.

"As for political or diplomatic relations I think that it is rather early to talk about this subject," Mr. Bouez said.

"I think it is clear that the file opened with Iraq now is an economic file, which is ready to be crystallised and developed, and after that we will see what steps can follow," he said.

Lebanese trade delegations have visited Iraq try-

ing to secure contracts under the United Nations oil-for-food deal under which Baghdad can sell limited amounts of oil to raise money to buy food and medicine.

A Lebanese agricultural delegation held talks in Baghdad in June to discuss supplying Iraq with agricultural products and help revive trade ties along the same lines as renewed Syrian-Iraqi links, Iraq's official news agency INA said.

Iraq and Syria, which broke off ties in 1980, have reopened their border for businessmen and industrialists in the past month and signed the first contracts in 17 years.

Lebanon, whose sales to Iraq before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait accounted for 20 per cent of Lebanese exports, broke ties with Baghdad following the 1994 assassination of an Iraqi dissident in Beirut.

Iraq paper says U.S. bid for new sanctions to fail

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper said Saturday a U.S. attempt to impose new sanctions on Baghdad through a U.N. Security Council resolution would fail.

"Its (U.S.) failing draft resolution to impose diplomatic sanctions on Iraq... reflects how America is living in dismay," the official Al Iraq newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

The draft resolution, a punishment for Iraq blocking U.N. arms inspection teams this month, includes preventing Iraqi officials and their immediate families from travelling abroad and suspends a review of trade sanctions against Iraq until Baghdad cooperates.

The U.N. council has been discussing the resolution for several days but a number of states, such as China, France and Russia, still have objections to its implementation.

U.S. and British officials at the Group of Seven summit in Denver sought Friday to drum up support for their resolution.

"The retreat by the American (U.N.) representative from the resolution... reflects the frustration that America is suffering from its hostile stands against Iraq," the paper said.

Curbs on Iraqi oil exports, imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will not be lifted until the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) says Baghdad no longer has any weapons of mass destruction.

The U.N. has allowed Baghdad since December to sell \$2 billion worth of oil to buy urgent needs for Iraqis.



HEBRON CLASHES: A Palestinian stops in front of Israeli soldiers on Saturday in Hebron where street battles continue for the eighth day against the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Palestinian youths hurled rocks and petrol bombs at soldiers who responded by firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas (AFP photo)

U.S. vote on Jerusalem is an insult to Islamic World, Rafsanjani says

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sharply criticised Saturday a U.S. House of Representatives vote recognising Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital, saying it was an insult to the Muslim World.

Mr. Rafsanjani described the ruling as a "big crime and a sinister and arrogant" move, and voiced regret over the "lack of a concrete action" from Muslim countries.

"This arrogant American-Zionist gesture is a disgrace to the Islamic World," he said in a speech inaugurating a mayoral conference of

the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"It is regrettable that we are deprived of our dearest pilgrimage site," the president added, urging Muslim countries to "react forcefully" to the resolution passed earlier this month.

The non-binding U.S. resolution passed on June 10 recognised Jerusalem as the "united capital" of Israel and set aside \$100 million to move the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton opposes the measure, saying it could hurt the peace process between Israel and

the Palestinians that Washington sponsors.

The United States, like most of the world, has never recognised Israel's unilateral annexation in 1967 of east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of an independent state in an eventual peace deal with Israel.

Sobhi Ghosheh, a representative of the Jerusalem municipality at the Tehran conference, pleaded for "solidarity" among Muslim countries to counter the U.S. move.

"We should not remain silent because Al Quds (Jerusalem) is the responsi-

bility of all Muslims and Arabs," he said, urging participants at the conference to condemn the American move.

Mr. Ghosheh said Israel had built "29 Jewish towns on Arab land while Arabs are expelled or banished from Jerusalem."

In a message read to the conference, OIC secretary general, Ezzedin Laraki, denounced the "Judaisation" of Jerusalem and warned of "Zionist plots against the Holy City."

Mayors or other municipal officials from the OIC's 54 members are taking part in the three-day conference.

Iran erects barbed wire, trenches to keep drugs out

DUBAI (R) — Iran has erected barbed wire fences, trenches, and hundreds of checkpoints and watchtowers along its borders to prevent drug traffickers from entering the Islamic Republic, Iranian state-run television said.

"In the near future, mines will be laid on the passage routes of drug traffickers," the television said late Friday, quoting remarks by Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The minister said that in the year to March 1997, 175 tonnes of various narcotics had been discovered by the Iranian authorities and 16,000 drug dealers arrested.

The head of Iran's prisons organisation said Monday nearly six out of every 10 convicts held in the country's jails were drug offenders.

Iran is a key transit route for drugs, mostly opium from which heroin is made, being smuggled to Europe via Turkey from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to Iranian law, possession of five kilograms of opium or 30 grammes of heroin is punishable death. More than 1,000 people have been executed in drug-related cases since the law took effect in 1989.

Uganda reassures Egypt over Nile schemes

CAIRO (AFP) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said in an interview published here Saturday that Egypt has nothing to fear from plans by his country to exploit water from the Nile.

"Uganda depends a lot on rainwater but we consider the Nile waters as a

reserve. Egypt has nothing to fear on this issue," Mr. Museveni told the Egyptian government daily Al Ahram.

He said plans to build hydraulic power stations on the river "create no problems because the water flows through the turbines and continues into Egypt."

The Egyptian press has reported in recent months that projects by several countries in the Nile basin could cut Egypt's vital share of water from the river.

Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yousef Wali denied earlier this week that another country,

Ethiopia, had grand schemes lined up for the Nile in cooperation with Israel.

However, Mr. Wali, quoted in the opposition daily Al Wafd, called for an agreement between all countries through which the Nile flows to regulate future water projects.

Egyptian sugar cane farmers are sour over government anti-terrorist campaign

MINYA (AFP) — Sugar cane farmers in southern Egypt are demanding compensation for a production slump caused by police destruction of crops used as hideouts by militants, local officials said Saturday.

"Land used for sugar cane cultivation has fallen by more than 30 per cent because of the elimination by security services of sugar cane plants where ter-

rorists usually take refuge," said a municipal council official in the southern province of Minya.

Sugar cane plants can grow as high as two metres during six months of the year and since a wave of anti-government violence was unleashed five years ago, security services banned its cultivation near main or secondary roads in the province.

A total of 1,181 people have been killed in the unrest launched by militants in March 1992.

The council official said sugar cane plantations had fallen from 16,000 hectares in 1995 to 10,500 hectares this year.

"Each year, around 6,000 feddans are damaged during raids by security services" searching for militants, he added.

Farmers have sown only 400,000 tonnes of sugar cane to the refinery in the town of Abu Qurqas, in Minya, down 40 per cent from 700,000 in 1995.

Local officials have called on the government to provide compensation of at least \$3 million to sugar cane field owners after it paid out some \$6 million last year for the same reason.

Exiles in Denver demand world boycott of Iran

DENVER (AFP) — One thousand Iranian opposition members in exile demonstrated shortly before the opening of the Summit of the Eight here Friday to demand a total boycott of Tehran.

Iran's main opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, organised the demonstration, which called for political and economic isolation of Tehran.

Policy towards Iran was one of the themes of a meeting here between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

The United States over the last few years has criticised Germany and the European Union's "critical dialogue" towards Iran.

European Union (EU) member states recalled their ambassadors from Tehran on April 10 after a German court held the top Iranian leadership responsible for the assassination of Iranian Kurd opposition figures in Berlin in 1992.

EU ambassadors will not return to Tehran as long as Germany's ambassador is persona non grata there, according to Kinkel spokesman Martin Erdmann.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

3:30	Holy Koran
3:35	French Programmes
4:05	Global Family
4:30	Energy Express
4:50	Doc. — Our World
5:15	American Chart Show
6:10	French Programmes
7:00	News in French
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Fresh Prince of Belair
8:00	Cinema Cinema Cinema
8:30	The Churchill
9:10	Renegade
10:00	Soccer Match
12:00	One West Waikiki

PRAYER TIMES

03:51	Fajr
05:26	(Sunrise) Doha
12:57	Dhuhr
16:18	Asr
19:49	Maghreb
21:24	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweetfish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.	632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel.	622366
Anglican Church Tel.	652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel.	771751
Armenian International Church Tel.	5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel.	845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.	654932
Church of Nazareth Tel.	675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel.	811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel.	614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be very hot. Winds will be northeasterly. In Aqaba, it will be very hot and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman	25/37
Aqaba	30/41
Deserts	27/39
Jordan Valley	28/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Wissam Hrayyin	748563
Dr. Munther Al Qasbi	779959
Dr. Mubkhes Mazharah	820425
Dr. Monther Al Khatib	839868
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Naioukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	281484
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Salah Al Safarini	987565
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Dept.	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water & Sewage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Tel. Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

HOSPITALS

J. Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Co.	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

AMMAN:

Hassan Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity	644281/6
Akileh Maternity	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
Shmeisani Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir	775111/25
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 532700

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:00	Bangkok, Berlin (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Doha (RJ)
10:00	Bombay (RJ)
10:05	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Laraca (RJ)
11:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Tunis (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:15	Vienna (RJ)
12:30	Rome (RJ)
12:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20	Athens (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
21:00	New Delhi (RJ)
21:10	Cairo (RJ)
21:20	Beirut (RJ)
21:25	Jeddah (RJ)
21:40	Damascus (RJ)
22:25	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:40	Bangkok (RJ)
23:00	Dubai (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)
01:50	Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

12:00	Sanaa (IY)
13:30	Jeddah (SV)
13:30	Sanaa (IY)
14:25	Doha (GF)
16:35	Moscow (SU)
22:25	Cairo (MS)
00:45	Amsterdam (KL)
02:00	Cairo (MS)
07:00	Beirut (ME)
07:55	London (BA)
08:15	Tel Aviv (LY)

Queen Noor addresses Princeton University regional conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday gave a keynote address at Princeton University's regional conference in London, entitled "Europe in the New World Order," a Royal Court statement said.

The two-day conference, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Princeton University, featured prominent Princeton alumni speakers, panellists and moderators.

Queen Noor, presenting "a view from the Middle East," highlighted the dangers of revived tensions in the Middle East today, "fanned by the headline ideology of the new Israeli governing coalition, which has championed the further colonisation of occupied Arab lands, and transformed the Holy City of Jerusalem from what should be a symbol of our shared moral faith to an unholy flash-point of violence."

As a result of the faltering peace process, foreign investment in the Middle East has not achieved its full potential despite major reforms undertaken by many countries to "revise their laws, loosen their state controls, open their markets, woo foreign investors, and move into the global arena," the Queen said, according to the statement.

She added that this "combination of economic and emotional pressures is potentially devastating to the politics of moderation and reconciliation," noting

that "this leaves the Arab World today at a historic and perilous crossroads: either we and our partners work harder to ensure that the peoples of our region enjoy the rights, dignity and prosperity they believe they have been promised, or we risk the resurgence of demagoguery, extremism and violence."

The Queen maintained that "globalisation can be a catalyst for mutual progress or a new cause for bitter global conflict. At its best, globalisation does not promote cultural uniformity, but provides opportunities for cultures to interact, enrich and learn from one another," citing the European approach in the Middle East as a model, the statement said.

The 1995 Barcelona Conference, which joined 27 European and 12 Mediterranean countries called for the establishment of association agreements between the EU and countries of the Mediterranean region with the aim of creating the world's largest free-trade zone by 2010.

The Barcelona Declaration also aimed at creating long-term stability based on 3 pillars: political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation and cooperation in social, cultural and human affairs.

The Queen noted that this partnership aims to "to achieve material and social well-being in an area of shared prosperity, based on free trade, joint investments

and research, environmental protection, expanded women's participation in society and the economy, and economic cooperation for sustainable development."

She added that Jordan has "embarked on this road by recently initialising an association agreement with the European Union, to foster greater political, economic and social dialogue and solidarity."

Queen Noor concluded by commending the Euro-Med partnership, which "represents the first deliberate, comprehensive attempt in modern history to promote shared understanding, stability and prosperity across such a wide and diverse area."

Participating in the Princeton regional conference were former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who presented a keynote address on the United States-European relationship in the aftermath of the Cold War, and U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain William Crowe.

The impact of global markets and competition on the social contract in a region that has given priority to the welfare of all was explored by a panel that included former President of the Bundesbank Helmut Schlesinger, while Chairman of Forbes Inc. Steven Forbes highlighted global challenges facing European commerce, the statement concluded.

Dakamseh claims physical mistreatment

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The trial of Corporal Ahmad Dakamseh has been adjourned until Wednesday subsequent to a defence request that the defendant be examined to determine whether or not he was beaten by soldiers guarding his cell.

At the half-hour session held Saturday, Defence Attorney Hussein Mjalli protested that his client had been maltreated and beaten, however the prosecution denied the accusation, asserting that any abuse was self-inflicted as, they contended, Cpl. Dakamseh hit himself while in his cell.

Cpl. Dakamseh is facing a military tribunal committee on charges of shooting and killing seven Israeli schoolgirls who were visiting the area of Baqoura on March 13.

Minutes before the five judges entered the court, and in full view of the attending public at the Fourth Armed Mechanised Division auditorium, Cpl. Dakamseh exhibited bruises to his back and face to his attorney.

Attorney Mjalli told the court that he was informed by his client that "he was beaten by soldiers last week."

"I call on the court to transfer my client to a forensic expert to examine the conspicuous bruises on his body and determine if he was beaten or not," Attorney Mjalli said.

Military Prosecutor Muhad Hajar responded in turn



From behind bars, Jordanian soldier Ahmad Mustafa Dakamseh, accused of murdering seven Israeli schoolgirls, shows bruises on his left shoulder during a hearing at an Amman military court. The prosecutor has accused Dakamseh of deliberately hurting himself (AFP photo)

by avowing that he had been informed by the director of the Amman prosecutor's office, where Cpl. Dakamseh is being held, that "[Cpl. Dakamseh] beat against the cell door with his body in an attempt to escape from captivity."

Prosecutor Hajar, who also called for forensic examination, charged that the soldier's intention in exhibiting his wounds, "was attention, taking advantage of the presence of the international press

and their cameras."

"Cpl. Dakamseh has been detained in the prosecutor's office for the past three months and no harm befell him and I challenge anyone to prove that he was beaten," Mr. Hajar said.

Attorney Mjalli also asked the court to postpone hearing Cpl. Dakamseh's testimony until military psychologists submit their report regarding the possibility that the defendant suffered a personality disorder.

The tribunal accepted the defence request, but asked that the defendant submit a written testimony to be presented in Wednesday's court session.

As soon as presiding Justice Brigadier General Ma'moun Khasawneh adjourned the session, a sister of Cpl. Dakamseh rushed to his cage and began kissing him, crying and asking: "What have they done to you my brother?"

The defendant's mother and other woman from his family also lamented, screaming in protest of the alleged beating of Cpl. Dakamseh.

During the 25-day trial, the military court has heard a total of 29 witnesses including 10 Israelis who, for the first time in the country's history, testified in Jordanian courts. The remaining 19 witnesses were Jordanian soldiers and forensic and mental health experts.

Cpl. Dakamseh claimed in March that he had been provoked by laughter on the part of the Israeli schoolgirls upon observing him reciting his prayers.

The defendant also alleged that the schoolgirls took photos of him as he prayed.

The prosecution, on the other hand, is charging that Cpl. Dakamseh plotted the attack and had previously attempted to kill Israeli tourists visiting the Baqoura area.

Jordanian soldiers testified that they witnessed the defendant shooting at the Israeli girls on the morning of the incident. Some witnesses further stated that Cpl. Dakamseh threatened them with his M16 rifle and warned them not to approach him while he fired on the Israeli schoolgirls.

Israeli witnesses included several of the schoolgirls who were injured in the shooting incident. In their testimonies, they denied taking any photos of any Jordanian soldier on that day.

Workers said to have paid permit fees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seventy-five thousand Egyptian workers were issued work permits between March 1 and June 20 and have paid their permit fees, subsequent to a government order that these labourers conform to Ministry of Labour regulations, according to Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh.

In a report delivered to the Council of Ministers, Dr. Khasawneh detailed the situation of guest workers in the Kingdom who had been given a three month mandate, later extended by an additional three weeks, to obtain permits that they might legally work in the Kingdom.

A Ministry of Labour official affirmed that the government will now strictly apply the law and request that guest workers without a valid work permit leave the country and pay both requisite exit fees and any other fines which they may have incurred.

Earlier, the government had exempted those workers wishing to permanently leave the country from paying exit fees, at the rate of one dinar for each day passed beyond the terms of their visa, provided that these workers never return to the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Labour's measure was taken following an agreement reached with the Egyptian government at a time when Egyptian workers in Jordan were estimated at around 280,000, with the majority reportedly failing to obtain a work permit.

Regulations stipulate that a worker hailing from an Arab country and employed in agriculture, pay an annual fee of JD 10 while other foreigners pay JD 100 for the permit.

Arab workers employed in construction pay an annual fee of JD 100, while other foreigners pay JD 300 for their work permits over the same time period.

Under the bilateral agreement, Egypt will undertake to regulate and organise the arrival of Egyptian workers in Jordan for employment. This means that a worker must obtain a work contract endorsed by the Egyptian labour mission in Amman.

Egypt pledged to inform Egyptian workers in Jordan of the revised procedures and coordinate related matters with the Jordanian government.

Ministry of Labour Acting Secretary General Abdul Majid Saraireh informed the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministry will implement intensive inspection campaigns and will hold those who illegally employ workers responsible for any and all violations.

According to the Ministry of Labour, 90 per cent of all foreigners working in Jordan are Egyptians, 30 per cent of whom work in agriculture.

Senate hears details of King's, Crown Prince's talks abroad

Cabinet resolves to float foreign cigarette prices

AMMAN (Petra) — A report covering Jordan's recent flurry of political and economic activities, initiated by His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan on both regional and international levels, was Saturday presented to the Senate by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani.

At the Senate session, chaired by Speaker Zeid Rifai, Dr. Anani reviewed the outcome of King Hussein's visits to France, the Netherlands and Switzerland in which he discussed Jordan's relations with these countries, the Middle East peace process and obstacles currently hampering the resumption of peace negotiations.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan's talks in Turkey and the United States were also described by Dr. Rifai as very positive.

Prince Hassan received assurances from Turkish leaders that their country's troops would be withdrawn from northern Iraq and that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity would be respected.

Dr. Anani summarised Prince Hassan's talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton as well as U.S. officials as yielding fruitful results, specifically in the creation of a Middle East Peace and Stability Fund from which an initial \$100 million in economic aid is to be allotted to Jordan

this year to help implement economic and development projects and the government-sponsored social safety net programme.

Last Tuesday, the U.S. government announced the creation of the fund to assist Jordan in pursuing economic modernisation and reform.

The King and Crown Prince both detailed investment prospects to the Kingdom, according to Dr. Anani.

Also Saturday, Dr. Anani addressed the Council of Ministers focusing on the Crown Prince's visit to the United States.

During the meeting, Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh detailed the outcome of the Geneva-based International Labour Conference to which His Majesty King Hussein delivered his address.

The Council of Ministers formed a committee comprised of both the private and public sectors to visit Egypt and discuss the prospect of exporting Jordanian pharmaceuticals to Egyptian markets.

This committee is also slated to prepare an agenda for the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee on adult education, due to open in Germany on July 14.

The Cabinet then endorsed a new salary scale for public sector doctors, dentists and veterinarians, raising their

professional allowance from 30 to 60 per cent of the basic salary as well as that of pharmacists from 90 to 100 per cent and that of nurses and midwives from 50 to 75 per cent.

The Council of Ministers reviewed a memorandum circulated by Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour regarding the restructuring of the following money-lending institutions: the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the Orphans Fund, the National Aid Fund and the Zakat (alms) Fund.

The Cabinet formed a ministerial committee to examine the proposal and report back to the Prime Ministry in six months time.

It also approved the importation of foreign cigarettes amongst the private sector, a practise which was formerly restricted to the Ministry of Supply.

In accordance with this decision, foreign cigarette prices are to be floated.

Finally, the Council of Ministers formed Jordan's delegation to attend an international conference on adult education, due to open in Germany on July 14.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Muath Masri has been appointed to lead the delegation.

Officials confirm 'elections in 1997'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Though no precise date has yet been fixed, leaders and officials have confirmed that 1997 is an election year, and that the elections for the 12th Jordanian Parliament will be held within their constitutional time limit of this autumn.

Officials' statements are serving to terminate speculation, encouraged by some parliamentarians, that the current "atmosphere" and the "general mood" of the country would not be "appropriate" for general elections.

The current stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace process, the resultant economic stagnation and delay in the implementation of regional development projects, could favour a reactionary vote of protest, some deputies have recently argued, and therefore this autumn's voting would not reflect actual political inclinations, but rather popular frustration.

"I am not a decision-maker and yet I too hear the rumours in the street, as many others who [have] decided to run [for Parliament] do," Deputy Anwar Hadid, member of the progressive democratic coalition in the 12th Parliament, told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

"The rumour mongers belong to different political streams," he added, proffering three reasons for which "the time is inappropriate to go to the polls."

First, "people are too busy trying to [earn] a living, and unemployment and poverty rates are too high," he said. Last month, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf announced the results of a study on living conditions, conducted by the Ministry of Planning, which demonstrated that 21 per cent of Jordanian families live below the poverty line.

Second, "citizens want a modern permanent election law," and would not condone the next elections being held under the 1993 electoral law, amended by Royal Decree, with only some minor administrative adjustments in mid-May, according to Mr. Hadid.

"The current one-person, one-vote system is incomplete, as there is no proportion between seats allocated to each constituency and the density of population residing therein," he added, proposing an increase in the number of Lower House seats.

Under the current electoral law, the governorate of Amman, whose estimated population of 1.6 million, according to official statistics, accounts for 38 per cent of the Kingdom's total population, elects 18 deputies, corresponding to 22.8 per cent of the 80-member Lower House.

The newly-created Aqaba constituency, with an estimated population of 85,800, according to the Department of Statistics, was allocated under the recent Royal Decree, two seats, one seat less than Ma'an, the population of which is estimated at 85,880.

Four per cent of Jordan's population is estimated to reside in the governorate of Karak, but the southern district is allocated seven Muslim and two Christian seats, more than 10 per cent of the total seats in the Lower House.

Finally, the third reason for which some deputies would favour postponing the upcoming elections is "the failure of the peace process and the lack of an immediate solution to the Palestinian cause, both of which have depressed the public," Mr. Hadid concluded.

In an interview published yesterday in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid halted such arguments by announcing that the election date will be decided in the next few days.

A few days ago, from Washington, HRH Crown Prince Hassan, discussing the internal situation of the Kingdom, stated "Jordan is living an election year," and added that "national elections will be held at the end of this year."

Meanwhile, back home, Mr. Rashid dismissed rumours, accusing those who say that the 12th Parliament should be extended of "fear of [losing] the elections."

Ministry announces new dates for Tawjihi

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Saturday announced new dates for the English section of the Tawjihi (secondary school certificate examination) in three Balqa governorate schools.

Disturbances 10 days ago disrupted the original examination session.

According to a Ministry of Education announcement, the Tawjihi students, originally assigned to sit for their examination in the Salt Secondary School for Boys, the Adih Wahbeh School for Boys and the

Yaraqa Secondary School for Girls will take the examination at the Salt Secondary School for Boys on July 5.

The ministry had cancelled the English language examination in the three schools following a group, identified only as inhabitants of the area, which, according to the ministry, stormed examination halls and proffered an answer key for students taking the exam.

Other reports said that family members of students taking the English language

exam attacked the schools with sticks and stones an hour after the inception of the examination, causing chaos and forcing exam inspectors to flee.

The Ministry of Education affirmed that it has formed a committee to investigate the incident and that those responsible for the disturbance will be duly castigated.

Nearly 72,000 secondary school students began the Tawjihi examination as of Jan. 1 and will not finish the session before July 2, according to the ministry.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Nemat Al Naser at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until June 30.

* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

* Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain, until June 30.

* "One-of-a-Kind" artists' book exhibit at the American Centre, Abdoun, until June 25.

مكتبة ابن رشد

Israel gains tentative landing rights at Aqaba Int'l Airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has tentatively agreed to grant Israel landing rights for civilian planes at Aqaba International Airport in order to ease pressure on its airport in Eilat, according to Civil Aviation Authority Director General Jasser Zayyad.

Mr. Zayyad described the agreement as recently confirmed in a joint Jordanian-Israeli meeting

held in Israel.

Last month, Israel asked Jordan to consider granting landing rights for Israeli civilian planes, he explained.

The Aqaba airport is the only airport in the southern region which conforms to international runway standards, permitting a large number of planes to land, according to Mr. Zayyad.

He confirmed that over 150 planes land in the Eilat airport each month and that other planes are therefore required to land in an Israeli military airport 45 kilometres away.

Jordan and Israel have agreed on an experimental period to test the landing process before a final decision is taken by the Jordanian government.

H. Kong handover rows die down

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong handover rows between Britain and China died down Saturday as talks inched forward in settling disputes about early arrival of Beijing troops and rights to protest during this month's big night.

Final details, from who will attend to what music, were unveiled for celebrations on the June 30 handover night.

With 10 days left, the only clouds on the horizon were disputes about whether China's troops could arrive before Beijing formally takes over and the right of protesters to stage a first demonstration under Chinese rule on the big night.

But Democratic Party member Lee Wing-Tar said demonstrators appeared closer to getting permission to enter the colonial legislature building after the midnight handover ceremony to read out statements.

The legislature, where the Democrats hold the largest number of seats, will be dissolved at midnight on June 30 and a pro-Beijing assembly sworn in shortly thereafter.

after. The Democratic Party has refused to take part in the new assembly, which will pass laws until elections are held in 1998.

It has vowed to occupy the legislature building and read out protests while the new pro-Beijing assembly is being sworn in by Beijing-appointed chief executive-designate, Tung Chee-hwa.

The plans to occupy the legislature have threatened to pose the first real challenge for Mr. Tung.

"We notified (Tung's office) of the full details of our action plans for June 30-July 1. And this time we got a more positive response," Mr. Lee said on a radio programme. "We hope that we can very peacefully get into the building and deliver our speech from the balcony."

Mr. Tung's office said discussions were continuing with the democrats but no decision had been taken.

Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten also sounded more optimistic about settling a disagreement between London and Beijing

about whether the main group of Chinese troops could enter the territory before it formally returns to China.

Senior Chinese officials have said that People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops need to enter the territory earlier than July 1 to ensure security for Chinese President Jiang Zemin who is attending the handover celebrations in Hong Kong.

An advance party of 196 PLA soldiers is already in Hong Kong setting up facilities for the eventual military unit.

"I'm sure there will be a resolution because both sides want to see it handled in a low key, sensitive and sensible way," Gov. Patten told reporters.

Media reports have said Beijing wants to send about 2,000 troops to Hong Kong on the afternoon of June 30.

China has given no figure for the number of troops it plans to eventually station in Hong Kong but at the height of British rule there were about 10,000 British troops in the colony.

Some of Hong Kong's 6.4

million people are wary of a PLA presence because of memories of how the troops put down the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The haggling did not get in the way of arrangements for what China calls the media event of the century.

Details unveiled Saturday showed a guest list of 10,000 names, topped by Britain's Prince Charles, and President Jiang.

For entertainment, there will be dragon dancers, two 70-piece orchestras, military bands, a massed choir of 650 adults and children, poetry reading and bagpipes.

The price tag for Britain's farewell to its last major colony: \$3 million, all paid for by the British government.

Much of that is being handed to the New York-based event company, Cathiner International Inc., whose previous triumphs have included the much-hyped launch of Microsoft's Windows 95.

New Congo truce holds despite French pullout

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Congo factions began a new week-long truce Saturday, their first agreement made without any help from France which pulled its forces out of the capital Brazzaville earlier than announced.

The streets of the city were quiet in the morning after isolated shots were fired overnight, probably by looters.

With artillery and guns silent for a fourth day, more people were starting to move around, even crossing the lines that divide President Pascal Lissouba's forces from the militia of his rival, Denis Sassou Nguesso.

But the town centre, scene of the fiercest fighting in a 12-day conflict that has fragmented the former French colonial capital, remained deserted.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team managed for the first time Friday to start collecting what remained of the dead, whose bodies had been unretrievable for up to two weeks.

"We collected 18 bodies from the Poto Poto roundabout and we hope to continue our work today. From now on it will be bodies, bodies, bodies," said ICRC delegate Darcy Christen.

Poto Poto, close to the Congo River on the main

Avenue of Peace, was the scene of some of the worst clashes between supporters of the two men who were to have fought presidential elections on July 27.

Bodies lie on the steps of the imposing cathedral that overlooks it.

Officials estimate at least several hundred men, women and children died in the fighting. Only a few have been buried.

Bernard Kolelas, the city mayor who is leading mediation efforts and clinched the last-minute deal Friday to extend a three-day peace that began Wednesday, was the third major candidate for the now-postponed July poll.

His spokesman said military leaders from the two warring sides would meet again Saturday to discuss how to cement the ceasefire in the oil-rich country that straddles the Equator.

Only the capital has been touched by the fighting. Mr. Kolelas' forces, involved in largely ethnic clashes that killed 2,000 people in Brazzaville in 1993, have stayed out of the latest battles and the southern suburbs they control have been a haven for civilians.

Restaurants are lively, markets open and traffic jams clog the streets in his riverside area of Baongo while the city centre is a silent cemetery.

Brazzaville is a mix of Congolese ethnic groups, but multi-party democracy that began in 1992 — when Mr. Lissouba ended 13 years of Mr. Sassou Nguesso's once Marxist one-party rule in free elections — has accentuated tribal divisions.

Despite the initial success of the ceasefire and the confidence it has restored, there is no political solution in sight to Congo's latest trauma.

France, going through difficult times with former African colonies, seems unwilling to get involved in Congo and ignored U.N. appeals to keep soldiers in Brazzaville to calm the city until an African intervention force could be set up.

The last of its 1,250 troops, most of whom were sent in specially to evacuate several thousand foreigners, flew away Friday, abandoning the city and the airport over which both sides had fought fiercely.

"That leaves 30 gendarmes who are staying to protect the diplomats, that is myself and 12 colleagues," French Ambassador Raymond Cesaire, the one remaining Western envoy, said.

On Friday, the Red Cross took 60 children from an orphanage in the no man's land around the airport to safety in Baongo.

Kabila denies massacres or obstructing U.N. probe

KINSHASA (R) — New President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo Friday denied his troops had massacred Rwandan Hutu refugees or that he ordered officials to obstruct a U.N. investigation.

"These are lies. First of all there are no more Rwandan refugees, they have gone home. There were never any massacres," he said in a brief interview on state television broadcast Friday night.

"To exonerate ourselves they (the international community) are seeking a scapegoat — massacres which never took place, refugees which we can find nowhere and all this is to incriminate us for having given a lesson to the big countries that we can liberate ourselves without saying sorry."

His statement followed the arrival in Kinshasa Friday of an advance team of United Nations investigators who intend to lay out terms for the investigation into the alleged massacre of thousands of Rwandan Hutus by Mr. Kabila's forces or their regional allies.

The mission follows per-

sistent reports of alleged massacres deep in the jungles in the east of what was then Zaire by Mr. Kabila's rebels, who ousted President Mobutu Sese Seko a month ago, or by Ugandan and Rwandan forces who assisted them.

In May a team of U.N. investigators failed to gain access to eastern Congo on a planned reconnaissance trip.

The latest team hope to talk to Mr. Kabila and his officials as soon as possible and to visit the areas where the investigations will take place before the full mission arrives on July 7.

The arrival of the investigators was clouded by a Washington Post report that Mr. Kabila had told some local officials to do as little as possible to aid them.

Citing unnamed Western and Congolese sources, it said Mr. Kabila had told officials in the east near the border with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, "not to direct human rights investigators to any mass grave sites or potential witnesses."

The sources said Mr. Kabila was under intense pressure from Rwandan and Ugandan officials to stymie

the probe.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said more than 200,000 Hutu refugees who had been living in Zaire for more than two years were still unaccounted for. Some 800,000 went home to Rwanda after their camps were overrun by Mr. Kabila's men or were repatriated subsequently by the UNHCR.

Security units from the two countries played an important part in Mr. Kabila's armed uprising that began in October.

In exchange for help in toppling Mr. Mobutu, Mr. Kabila was forced to give those units a free hand in gunning down thousands of ethnic Hutu refugees, the Washington Post's sources were quoted as saying.

Mr. Kabila's own army included many ethnic Tutsis, traditional rivals of the Hutus who fled Rwanda in 1994 after Tutsi exiles won control of Rwanda following the genocide by Hutu hardliners of up to a million people from the Tutsi minority.

U.S. House votes one man wide powers in scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives Friday voted to grant a Republican committee chairman wide powers to investigate fund raising abuses in the 1996 elections, ignoring Democrats charges of abuse of power.

The House voted 216-194 along strict party lines to give Dan Burton, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, the unilateral ability to subpoena witnesses, order legal depositions by committee staff without the presence of members and apply for the assistance of foreign courts to conduct interviews with witnesses overseas.

The committee was probing whether Asian business interests or the Chinese government tried to influence the 1996 presidential election by illegally donating funds to the Democratic Party through Asian-American intermediaries.

It was also investigating whether foreigners attempted to win influence or favours or gained access to classified information in return for their illegal financial support.

Outraged Democrats said no single individual had ever been granted such wide powers before.

"Joe McCarthy never had this power," said David Bonior, the Michigan Democrat who is his party's number two man in the House, referring to Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy who conducted anti-Communist witch hunts in the 1950s.

"In their (Republican) arrogant abuse of power, they have completely undermined the credibility of this investigation," Representative Bonior said.

Republicans responded by saying that at least two previous Democratic committee chairmen had identical powers when investigating alleged Republican misdeeds.

Mr. Burton has said the committee was possibly investigating the largest systematic and coordinated effort to funnel illegal funds into our national elections in U.S. history.

He said the scope of the inquiry justified him asking for such wide investigative powers.

"The committee has received thousands of pages of documents and has begun to piece together the intricate web of potential fund raising illegalities," said Mr. Burton.

Democrats have tried to discredit the investigation in advance by casting Mr. Burton as a virulent partisan with his own ethical problems.



Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider (left) shakes hand with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after a courtesy call on the prime minister in Islamabad Saturday. Mr. Haider is in Islamabad for a four-day round of peace talks with Pakistani officials that began on June 20 (Reuters photo)

Indian diplomat meets Pakistani president, premier ahead of talks

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider called on Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here Saturday ahead of a second round of talks on normalising relations, officials said.

During the meeting, Mr. Leghari voiced the hope that the foreign secretary-level talks would contribute toward a resolution of the "core" issue of Kashmir and other outstanding problems, an official statement said.

Mr. Leghari referred to "negative" events including the reported deployment of Prithvi missile by India on the border, alleged airspace violation by an Indian Mig-25 and the killing of a Pakistani military officer in cross-border firing.

Such happenings should be avoided to maintain a conducive atmosphere for dialogue, Mr. Leghari told Mr. Haider, according to the statement.

The Indian diplomat assured Mr. Leghari that New Delhi had entered the talks with a "positive attitude," the statement said.

Earlier, Mr. Haider called on Mr. Sharif.

Mr. Haider arrived in the Pakistani capital Friday at the head of a delegation of officials and held two hours of talks with Mr. Ahmed.

The talks are due to end Sunday.

On Friday, Mr. Leghari welcomed the current round of talks saying it would bring peace to the region

Kashmir leader asks Pakistan to give up claim

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The chief minister of Kashmir Saturday said Pakistan must "return" the part of the divided state it administers, the United News of India reported.

Farooq Abdullah also said ongoing talks between the two neighbours, which have fought three wars since 1947, should focus on the disputed Himalayan territory — a major issue between the arch-rivals.

"The Indian foreign secretary must ask the Pakistani counterpart to return all parts of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," he told newsmen at a press conference.

Mr. Abdullah said the Kashmiri people had no choice but to demand the return of the land, which he said was under Indian occupation.

Speaking to military officers at the National Defence College here, the president said he did not expect "miracles" but there could be a change of heart on both sides as a result of the discussions.

India should start moving toward peace based on principles, he said, adding he hoped New Delhi would "see reason" one day.

Peace on the sub-continent would help both Pakistan and India realise cross-border projects, like gas and oil pipelines from central Asia, which would have benefits for the region, Mr. Leghari said.

Relations remain strained over the Himalayan state of Kashmir, divided between Pakistan and India and claimed by both.

The two have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

Pakistan believes economic, trade and cultural co-operation with India hinges on a settlement of the 50-year-old territorial dispute.

Demanding a referendum in Kashmir, Pakistan accuses India of "human rights violations" in the southern two-thirds of the territory controlled by New Delhi.

India blames Pakistan for a Muslim separatist revolt in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir that has claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1989.

Pakistan denies the charge, but vows to continue moral and diplomatic support for what it calls a "legitimate struggle" for Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Swarm of quakes hit N. Zealand capital

WELLINGTON (AFP) — The New Zealand capital has been hit by a swarm of earthquakes, but no major damage has been reported.

One tremor which jolted the lower north island at 3.40 a.m. (1540 GMT) Saturday was measured 5.2 on the Richter Scale.

It was the second large tremor in three days and seismologists say there have been several smaller shakes in between.

The earthquake Thursday measured 5 on the Richter Scale, and the two large tremors were both situated 30 kilometres northwest of Wellington and 30 kilometres deep.

Professor of Geophysics at Victoria University Euan Smith said people should

prepare themselves for more earthquakes of the same magnitude.

"We have no idea how long this might continue. It might be days, it might be months. The expectation should be that earthquakes of this size are going to continue."

It was unlikely the quakes were a precursor to "the big one."

Prof. Smith said people should make sure any valuable ornaments or glassware were secure.

Seismologist Ken Gledhill, of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, said the institute had recorded several quakes since the first one hit Thursday night.

As the region shook, the

capital's capacity to deal with disasters was under the spotlight.

Wellington had "no current capacity or infrastructure to cope with an event such as a large earthquake", said Alastair Fox, of the suburban Tawa Emergency Management Group.

Mr. Fox said he was concerned at the lack of trained volunteers in the community and that the Emergency Management Office was not sending information to the public.

"What seems important to them is to distance themselves as far as possible from delivery of any practical services to the community in the event of an emergency," he said.

Russia plotting to swallow up Belarus — opposition leader

MINSK (AFP) — The exiled leader of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front (BNF), Zenon Poznyak, urged supporters Saturday to set up a liberation movement, accusing President Alexander Lukashenko of being Moscow's "stooge."

In a video recording sent from Warsaw, Mr. Poznyak told BNF supporters at the front's fifth congress in Minsk that Belarus "is in a state of internal occupation, and Russia plans to incorporate the republic in the Russian Federation."

Urging the 350 BNF delegates to "set up a Belarusian liberation movement," Mr. Poznyak said Mr. Lukashenko was "acting as a

stooge for the Russian secret services."

"The BNF must not support integration with Russia. The liberation movement must be anti-imperialist and pro-European," Mr. Poznyak said, condemning the union pact signed by Russia and Belarus on May 23.

The union accord provided for joint leadership bodies, but stopped well short of calls for full economic integration.

Mr. Poznyak and his spokesman Sergei Naumchik were granted asylum in the United States last August — the first such case since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Poznyak fled Belarus

in April 1996 in the wake of a crackdown on protestors opposed to the union treaty with Russia.

He told his supporters Saturday that Belarus must be independent and develop closer ties with the rest of Europe and international structures.

"The main strategic goal is the resignation of Lukashenko and liquidation of the presidency," Mr. Poznyak added.

The congress was attended by Leon Borshechsky, the BNF's acting leader, who was arrested by police Friday for organising an anti-government protest, but then released until Sunday following an outcry by independent media.

Blair piles pressure on Sinn Fein

DENVER (R) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, Friday that time was running out for them to gain a seat at Northern Ireland's peace talks.

In his bluntest comments on Northern Ireland since he came to power on May 1, Mr. Blair said he would press on in the search for a political settlement without Sinn Fein unless the Irish Republican Army (IRA) abandoned violence once and for all.

"The decision that they've got to make — the moment of decision if you like — is that they are going to give up violence and join the democratic and peaceful path."

"And if they don't do that, then there is no future for them within the talks process, and the process which leads to a lasting settlement," Mr. Blair told reporters shortly after arriving in Denver, Colorado, for the annual summit of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations.

Mr. Blair is confident of enlisting the support of U.S. President Bill Clinton in his efforts to revive the peace process, which suffered a serious setback Monday when the outlawed guerrilla group murdered two policemen in an ambush in the rural town of Lurgan, southwest of Belfast.

Mr. Blair said the murders had caused revulsion in the United States as well as in Britain, because they were carried out at the very moment when the prospects for peace were brightening.

British officials have been encouraged by the harsh criticism of the murders in U.S. newspapers that in the past have been sympathetic to the Sinn Fein goal of a united Ireland.

"Whatever support they used to get in the United States, I think there has been a real change in the atmosphere here," Mr. Blair said.

Northern Ireland will top the agenda when Mr. Blair meets Mr. Clinton for two bilateral Saturday on the fringes of the G7 summit, which also brings together the leaders of France, Japan, Italy, Germany and Canada.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is also attending most of the sessions.

Mr. Clinton has given strong backing in the past to the peace process and officials are confident he will do the same again.

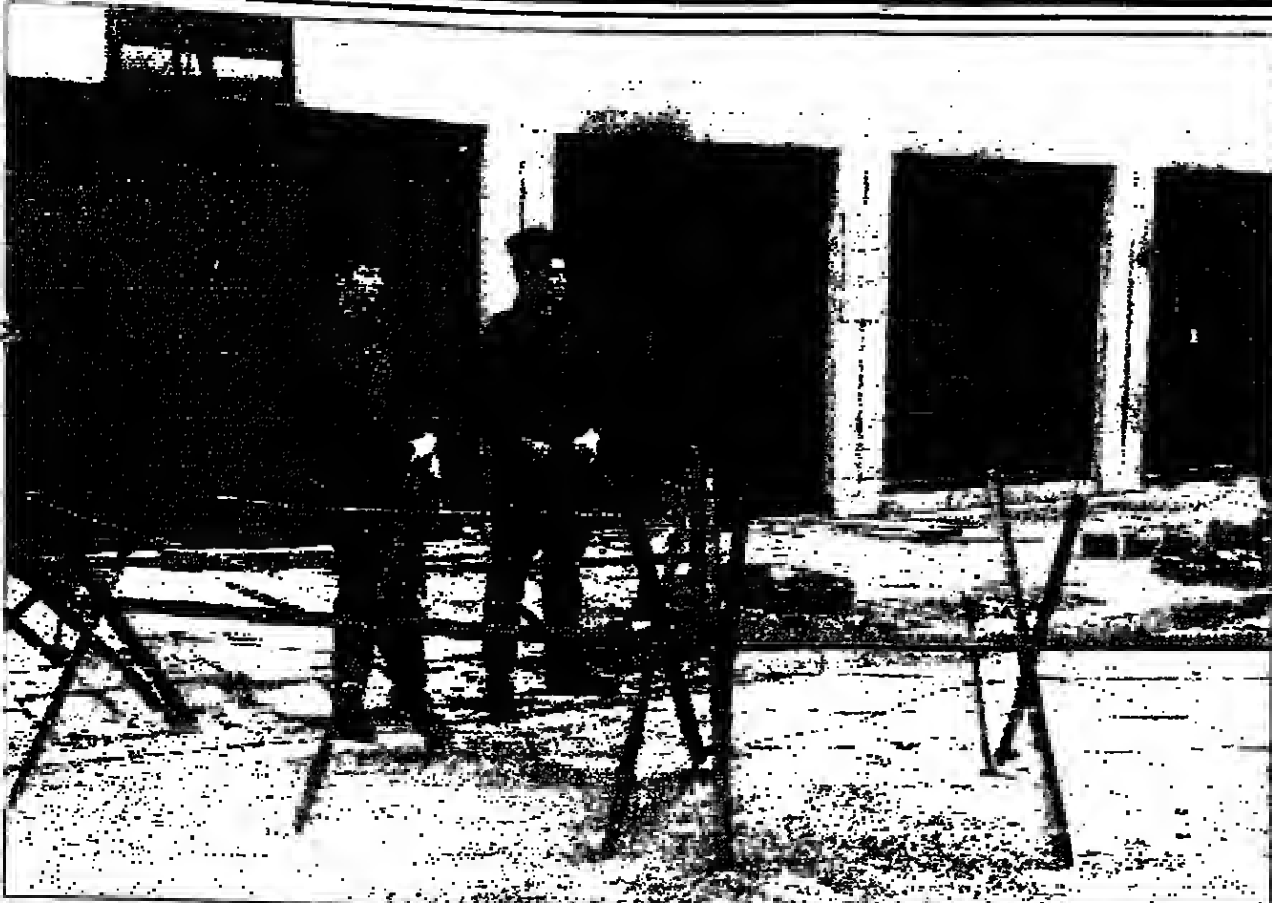
"We are very pleased with the messages that have come through both publicly and privately from President Clinton," one official said.

Mr. Blair will brief Mr. Clinton on an important parliamentary statement on Northern Ireland that he intends to make next week, probably Wednesday, officials said.

Mr. Blair declined to characterise the blunt message as giving one more chance to Sinn Fein.

But to get a seat at the talks table for Sinn Fein, the IRA had to restore unequivocally the truce it broke in February 1996 with a string of bomb attacks on the British mainland.

"What is important is that if they are not prepared to do that, if they are not prepared to come into these talks on the basis of the road of peace and democratic methods, if they go ahead and carry on with their violence, then we have got to build a lasting settlement without them," Mr. Blair said.



Two policemen guard the Turkish embassy in Brussels after a bomb exploded early Saturday morning causing slight damage to the building and blowing out nearby windows. An anonymous telephone caller to an international news agency claimed the bomb was planted by an Armenian group (Reuters photo)

Blast shakes Turkish embassy in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AFP) — An explosive device damaged the Turkish embassy in central Brussels overnight, police said Saturday, in an attack claimed by an obscure Armenian group. Nobody was hurt in the blast, but a glass door and windows in the large concrete embassy in the Belgian capital were damaged, and windows in other buildings in the vicinity were smashed.

Police here said the device contained metal bolts and was placed inside a rubbish sack. The public prosecutor in charge of investigating terrorist attacks went to the scene.

Turkish sources said the only people in the building at the time of the blast at 1:00 a.m. (2300 GMT) were security personnel, who noticed nothing untoward. A short while later in Rome, a man claiming to

represent an Armenian group claimed responsibility for the blast in a telephone call to AFP and warned of future attacks on Turkish interests around the world.

The man, who spoke English with a marked accent, claimed he represented a group called Kurken Yanikian which he said "takes full responsibility for the bombing attack."

He accused Turkey of the genocide of Armenians 81 years ago and said it was "neglecting international laws."

Proposal backs Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, France and Russia, as part of their new peace initiative in the oil-rich Caucasus, have proposed that Armenia accept the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave as part of Azerbaijan, Western diplomats say.

The three mediators, operating as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Group, have vowed to keep their proposals secret.

But authoritative diplomatic sources told Reuters that in return for Armenia recognising the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Baku would have to grant Nagorno-Karabakh an extraordinarily high degree of autonomy.

President Bill Clinton, French President Jacques Chirac and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who are meeting at the G-7 in Denver, were expected to issue a joint statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict later, officials said.

Armenians and Azeris went to war in the late 1980s over Nagorno-Karabakh, which was mainly

populated by Armenians despite being inside Azerbaijan's borders.

Separatist Armenian forces still hold 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh, captured during the fighting in the early 1990s in which upwards of 35,000 people were killed.

During the last three years there has been a truce but so far no permanent peace has been taken hold. U.S. officials are encouraged, however, that with Washington, Paris and Moscow now joining forces to present a unified front and vigorously press a settlement, the conflict could be resolved.

Although the conflict is largely self-contained and hence not much of a threat to countries beyond the borders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, there is substantial international interest in developing oil reserves in Azerbaijan and in building a multi-billion dollar pipeline to transport Caspian Sea oil to Western markets.

Experts say this is a key reason behind the new push for peace, which now

claims the attention of senior officials, including U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

"This is the classic post-communist, post-Soviet ethnic conflict. It's got ramifications for peace, relations with Russia, Iran, oil, you name it," one Western diplomat said.

At least twice in recent weeks, U.S., French and Russian officials have visited the region to discuss their ideas with the affected parties and diplomatic sources say all three of the parties — including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh — have taken the proposal seriously.

Sources said the proposal was very detailed and they did not underestimate the difficulty of negotiations now underway.

Some news reports suggested U.S., Russian and European peacekeepers might be introduced into the region as part of a settlement. U.S. and French officials refused comment.

But Paul Goble, a former State Department official who is an expert on inter-

ethnic conflict, told Reuters some kind of multinational peacekeeping force will be needed to separate the hostile sides because "too much blood has been shed" and Azerbaijan will not accept a Russia-only force.

He said these forces need not be armed but could be observers to act as a "tripwire" against new violence.

Mr. Goble and other analysts doubt the possibility of a settlement, however. "The Armenians see Karabakh in the way that the Israelis see Jerusalem — as a place which they can never give up," he said.

Solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is as complicated as solving a multi-sided puzzle, he said. U.S. and other officials say the potential for stability and expanded economic development should be powerful reasons for the parties to make peace.

But Mr. Goble and other experts said a solution must be more comprehensive, possibly requiring that Turkey acknowledge that a 1915 attack on Armenians was genocide, for instance.

Pol Pot captured by former Khmer Rouge comrades

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge strongman Pol Pot, whose "killing fields" rule in the 1970s devastated Cambodia, has been captured and efforts will be made to try him before an international court, the government said Saturday.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and his uneasy coalition partner and co-premier, Hun Sen, said the Communist guerrilla leader and a close associate had been caught by former comrades who turned against the hardline veteran.

"This is the end of the Khmer Rouge," Mr. Hun Sen told reporters.

"Prince Ranariddh and I agree that this is a gift to the Cambodian people," he said.

Mr. Hun Sen said Mr. Pol Pot and Khieu Samphan, a senior figure in the guerrilla group, were caught by a Khmer Rouge splinter faction which broke away earlier this month following internal fighting that erupted at the rebels' base in northwest Anlong Veng.

Mr. Pol Pot fled the guerrilla base after ordering the slaughter of his defence chief and almost a dozen members of his family.

The two premiers did not elaborate on the precise whereabouts of Mr. Pol Pot and Mr. Khieu Samphan, nor when they might be brought to Phnom Penh. There was no information about the fate of other key Khmer Rouge leaders.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh were speaking after holding talks with visiting Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

It was the first time in recent weeks the two leaders had presented a unified front over the Khmer Rouge, which began to unravel last August following the defection to the government of a large number of rebels.

Prince Ranariddh said the Khmer Rouge guerrilla army was now finished both politically and militarily.

He said Mr. Pol Pot should be sent to an international tribunal to answer for the excesses of his 1975-79 "killing fields" reign of terror when the radical guerrilla group's name became synonymous with starvation, vicious torture and mass execution.

"We agree with each other that Pol Pot will be brought... eventually to Phnom Penh and the two prime ministers are going to send a letter to the United Nations secretary-general to ask him to set up an international tribunal to try Pol Pot," the prince said.

Mr. Pol Pot, whose Khmer Rouge government was responsible for the death of more than a million Cambodians, has not been seen in public since 1980, two years after his overthrow at the hands of an invading Vietnamese army.

He was sentenced to death in absentia by a Phnom Penh court soon after his overthrow.

Khmer Rouge Radio, which is under the control of the breakaway faction, announced Friday in a broadcast from its guerrilla zone that its army captured the 69-year-old Pol Pot the previous day.

The breakaway Khmer Rouge faction which captured Mr. Pol Pot would be integrated into government forces after formally surrendering, the two premiers said.

Mr. Ranariddh said Friday that forces from the splinter group were closing in on Mr. Pol Pot who was holed up in a land-ridge strewn mountain camp in Northern Cambodia, guarded by his last band of loyal fighters.

Mr. Pol Pot led a Cambodian peasant army to victory against the U.S.-backed Lon Nol Republic in 1975, or year zero, as the Khmer Rouge called it. They immediately embarked on a bloody restructuring of society.

Mr. Pol Pot's guerrillas emptied Phnom Penh at gunpoint, forcing the sick from their beds. Women, children and the elderly were ordered into the countryside and put to work in labour camps.

More than one million people were executed as enemies of Mr. Pol Pot's utopian revolution or died of disease, starvation or overwork during their reign.

The Khmer Rouge waged a low-intensity guerrilla war against the government after boycotting a 1993 election supervised by the United Nations.

Cambodians greeted news of the capture of Mr. Pol Pot Saturday with calls for the man responsible for the deaths of more than a million of his countrymen to also be put to death.

"I am so angry with him, I would like to chop him up like he killed so many people," said 40-year-old widow Chay Ky.

Cambodia does not have the death penalty, but some ordinary people said Mr. Pol Pot should be dealt with in the summary way he dealt with so many of his countless victims.

"In my opinion Pol Pot must be sentenced to death but maybe a death sentence would be too easy for him. But for sure he should be kept in prison for the rest of his life," said 55-year-old security guard Teth Chhorn.

"This is good news for the people of Cambodia, especially for me. My father was killed during the Pol Pot regime," said teacher Keng Dale.

But the widow, Chay Ly, had some good things to say about Mr. Pol Pot's utopian experiment, which put rich and well-educated at the bottom rung of society's ladder.

"Pol Pot did some correct things. During his regime there were equal rights, no rich and no poor, all the people were in the same class," she said.

"But his biggest mistake was that he killed his own innocent people. He did not provide enough food for the people, he forced them to work too hard, all day and all night," she said.

Many said they just wanted to try and forget the horror of Mr. Pol Pot's rule.

"I can't describe how much my family and I suffered during his regime. Everything seemed to be finished," said Phnom Penh taxi driver Heng Meant.

"I don't know what should be done with him but all of us, we just don't want to hear his name any more," he said.

Meanwhile, Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh met the Cambodian co-premiers here Saturday during a 24-hour visit coinciding with news of Mr. Pol Pot capture.

In Laos, before arriving in Cambodia, Mr. Chavalit told reporters travelling with him that he had "independent confirmation" of Mr. Pol Pot's capture. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Chavalit's schedule was heavy on protocol, but he did have private talks with the two prime ministers on topics ranging from mutual economic concerns to the thorny topic of logging, officials said.

Environmental groups have criticised both Thailand and Cambodia for their logging policies, most recently over cutting of Cambodian timber which found its way into Thailand.

Anti-Taleban alliance blasts Pakistan

KABUL (AP) — An anti-Taleban alliance Saturday railed against attempts by Pakistan to woo Central Asian states into the Taleban camp.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub is on a tour of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to explain why Islamabad moved so quickly to recognise the Taleban government last month, barely 24 hours before the Islamic militia was driven from northern Afghanistan.

For less than 72 hours in May the Taleban ruled more than 90 per cent of Afghanistan, but a falling out with its ethnic Uzbek allies led to a devastating defeat in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

At least 300 Taleban soldiers were massacred there.

hundreds more were taken prisoner and thousands forced to flee the city.

Pakistan is believed to be one of the main backers of the Taleban religious militia, which now controls the southern two-thirds of the country.

The northern one-third is run by the alliance made up mostly of the country's ethnic minorities. Pakistan and the Taleban say the alliance is backed by Iran, Russia and some of the Central Asian states.

"We are ready to solve our problem through negotiations with our Afghan brothers," said an opposition spokesman known only as Abdullah. "But we will never allow any country to establish their puppet government over Afghanistan's people."

The opposition alliance, led by ousted military chief Ahmad Shah Massoud, an ethnic Tajik and his ally, Malik Pahlawan, an ethnic Uzbek, is waging fierce battles with the Taleban on several fronts.

Mr. Abdullah said the anti-Taleban alliance is bolding dozens of Pakistani nationals, who were captured while fighting alongside the Taleban.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied sending manpower into Afghanistan.

However, it's believed that hundreds of Pakistanis were among an estimated 5,000 students from religious schools in Pakistan who flooded into Afghanistan in recent weeks to help the Taleban army.

Pakistan insists the students who crossed the bor-

der into Afghanistan were Afghans.

Pakistan played host to more than 5 million Afghan refugees during the height of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. About 1.5 million Afghans still live in Pakistan, afraid to return to their homeland because of the relentless fighting between rival factions.

"It is clear from the beginning that Pakistan wants to have a puppet regime in Afghanistan," said Mr. Abdullah. "Instead they should give the Afghan people the opportunity to decide their future."

Pakistan, meanwhile, has offered to host talks between the warring factions. So far none of the groups in Afghanistan has accepted the invitation.

New U.K. Tory boss confirms party shift to right

GLASGOW (R) — William Hague, the new leader of Britain's crushed opposition Conservatives, Saturday underlined his party's shift to the right by naming more hardliners to key shadow cabinet posts.

Mr. Hague appointed former party chairman Brian Mawhinney as shadow home secretary and arch anti-European Iain Duncan-Smith to the post of shadow social security secretary.

David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned from the previous government last year over his opposition to the proposed European single currency, becomes shadow chief secretary to the treasury.

The return of Dr. Mawhinney to the political limelight came as a surprise, for he was widely accused of running an inef-

fective campaign in the run-up to the May 1 rout which put Labour into power with a huge majority.

Another old-timer back in the fray is former party chairman Sir Norman Fowler, believed to have pulled out of frontline politics, who becomes shadow spokesman for environment, transport and the regions.

Although Mr. Hague did give some posts to moderate members of the party there is no doubt that the opponents of further integration with the European Union (EU) are in charge. Splits over policy towards the EU helped sink the party on May 1.

Mr. Hague announced the completion of the cabinet shortly after arriving in Scotland, which for the first time in history did not return a single Conservative member of parliament.

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Land, focus of conflict

IN AN interview with Newsweek magazine, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, says he is ready to resume talks with the Palestinians "if the will is there on the Palestinian side." He would meet with Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat anytime "to advance the cause of peace," the prime minister insists.

But what peace? The peace that the Palestinians agreed to pursue when they went to Madrid in 1991, which is based on the formula of land-for-peace? Or is it the peace that the previous Israeli Labour government agreed to reach with the Palestinians, promising them a state and accommodation over Jerusalem?

Not really, says the Likud prime minister. His peace is not based on the exchange of land-for-peace as envisaged in the American letters of assurances that led to the Madrid conference. What Netanyahu and his hard-line coalition partners in the government have in mind is only autonomy for the Palestinians in 40 per cent of the West Bank. For while the Palestinians are willing to relinquish their historical rights in Palestine proper and settle only for the West Bank and Gaza, Netanyahu would entertain no compromise over the lands of "Eretz Israel." The less inhabited parts of West Bank and Gaza are those lands and the inhabitants of the rest would "effectively control every aspect of their lives (and) a few powers would be shared, especially those related to security and airspace that would be held by Israel."

This then is the real conflict. It was before Madrid and it is now. What use would the negotiations otherwise be to the Palestinians if their outcome would not set them free from the Israeli occupation?

The current standoff over the Abu Ghneim settlement is only a microcosm of the whole conflict. The stalemate is not really about the right of Israel to build in Jerusalem or elsewhere in the West Bank; it is between two conflicting claims to the same piece of land.

What the Palestinians and the Israelis need to do in order to resolve their conflict then is to settle their claims to the land, because once they did that all the rest will be more easily settled. This way perhaps it is much better for them to move as quickly as possible to the final status talks and to put the issue of land and borders on the top of their list. Once they have decided what Israel is and should be and where Palestine is and should be, the rest will follow. Meanwhile, the implementation of the Oslo accords can proceed if there is enough goodwill to keep agreements signed between the two sides.

A new two-track approach may well be the answer to the current deadlock and other potentially-explosive problems.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday criticised government officials who have been accusing the local press of ruining Jordan's relations with Arab countries or reflecting a bad image of the country's economy. Tareq Masarweh said that under a democracy, different papers present their readers with different reports and views, but that does not mean that they intend to destroy Jordan's ties with other Arab countries. At the same time, if the government feels that it is of such power as to affect inter-Arab relations, it must pay due respect to such a press which proves to be mature and functioning in a free country enjoying democracy, said the writer. He said that the government cannot claim that investors have been scared away from Jordan or the national economy has been shaken all because of articles published in the local press. When the dinar exchange rate changed dramatically and when the economy was in poor condition, no weekly tabloids, which have been accused by the government to be behind such developments, were in existence, noted the writer. He said that the Amman Financial Market's operations plummeted when the Central Bank hiked the interest rates and the 1988 devaluation of the dinar occurred largely due to the manipulations of the general manager of Petra Bank at the time, who had defied the Central Bank regulations, and not due to articles published in the local press.

A WRITER for Al Arah Al Yawm discussed a government decision to dispose of the food coupons system which has, to date, enabled limited-income and needy groups to buy milk, rice and sugar at government subsidised prices. The government has decided to replace the food coupons with cash subsidy to the Jordanian families and this could be a step towards relieving the Ministry of Supply of administrative burdens or even reducing the number of employees involved in running the food coupons system, noted Khaleel Zubeidi. The writer said that the subsidised food commodities have been going directly to the limited-income groups and needy people, but under the proposed cash subsidy system no one can guarantee that the family heads who would receive the cash would be spending it for the same purpose of providing basic food items to the family members. The cash subsidy system could be working well in a country where the greater part of the population does not live under the poverty line, according to the writer. He expressed hope that the shift to cash subsidy would not serve as a transitional step leading to the cancellation altogether of the government subsidy to the poor.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

PNA 1997 budget lacks details, 'hardly' binding on concerned parties

THE 1997 budget of the Palestinian National Authority was issued five months into the year, while it should have been issued before the beginning of the fiscal year. This is a procedural fault that can be avoided in the future.

Total domestic revenue was estimated at \$814.2 million, i.e., \$51.8 million short of the allocated amounts for the current expenses, including transfers and ordinary capital expenses. This is supposed to be the deficit of the 1997 budget in its first chapter.

The second chapter of the Palestinian budget amounts to another \$845.1 million, which is devoted completely to financing economic development projects. This chapter will be fully financed by donor states and international institutions; thus the overall deficit of the budget, before foreign aid, would amount to around \$900 million, or more than 25 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Projects in this chapter will be implemented only after receiving the corresponding aid and to that extent. In other words, expenditure under this chapter is conditional.

The 1997 budget is the first to include developmental projects and donor funds. Such activity was previously dealt with off-budget. It is obvious that the budget and the accompanying tables were designed having in mind the donors and the observers.

It is understood that the budget is hardly hindering on the ministries and divisions concerned, especially on the office of the president which can spend any amount, irrespective of the budget. The president used to personally sign all off-budget payments. This practice is expected to be discontinued since all expenditures are now included in the budget, a major step forward.

The document of the Palestinian budget lacks details, regarding both income and expenditure. It includes totals and lump sums allocated to various ministries and public

sector institutions. As a matter of fact, the capital and developmental chapter in the budget is confined to one line reading as follows: "Developmental capital expenditure financed by donor states — \$854.1 million." There is no further information regarding the nature or breakdown of the projects which will be financed by this amount, or the specific sources from which the donations will be expected to come about.

The Palestinian minister of finance said that the budget is based on certain assumptions, all of which are believed to be on the optimistic side. They cover economic growth rate, inflation rate, flow of foreign aid, jobs in Israel available to Palestinian labourers, high growth of exports and imports, continued expansion of the public administration apparatus and the creation of thousands of new jobs.

It is worth mentioning that when reestimating the previous year budget figures, they showed that the current expenditures were exceeded, while development allocations were hardly utilised, perhaps to divert funds to recurring expenses. Actual current expenses were eight per cent higher than the budget, while only 59 per cent of the developmental expenditures were actually used. \$32 million extra money was spent in 1996 and labelled as contingent expenses which were not budgeted for.

It seems that current expenses were, and will continue to be, allowed to inflate rapidly. Such expenses rose in 1996 by 29 per cent over 1995. Salaries in particular rose by 36 per cent in one year.

The growth of current expenditures in 1997 is supposed to reach 12 per cent if the limitations of the budget were observed and adhered to; a big "if".

Under these circumstances, it is only natural to notice that inflation in the West Bank is running at double digit figures i.e., 10 per cent or more, while the inflation rate in Jordan does not exceed four per cent.

'France's high-cholesterol regimen has worked so far'

By Diane Johnson

SAN FRANCISCO — The French paradox used to refer to the way French people eat delicious high-cholesterol food yet stay thin and have fewer heart attacks, while Americans glumly pick at healthful carbs and keep getting fatter.

After the June 1 elections, "French paradox" could refer to French theories of economics. The new Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, promises to address the future by retaining the indulgent social policies of the past, and to reduce the deficit by shortening the workweek to 35 hours and raising the minimum wage. All this drives Americans mad, of course.

Remember how people used to mutter about high suicide rates in Sweden's welfare state, puritanically implying cause and effect? Americans are always being told it is inevitable that people move on to the mean, lean, downsized world of the future, with the unfit dropping by the way.

But the defeat of John Major's government in

Britain and Jacques Chirac's conservative coalition in France came when voters were given a choice, often very specific, between an American economic model and conception of society and what seemed the rather old-fashioned lefty social protections people were used to.

Their answer was "no" to American-style capitalism, and to the violent, deteriorating societies they think it produces. Is there a message here? One reason we Americans are confused by the paradoxical refusal of the French to subscribe to what we have felt to be an inevitable economic model is that we have allowed our economics to be tangled up with our (Judeo-Protestant?) ideas of morality. We are a self-righteous, moralistic nation.

It's "right" to work hard. Gain is "good." The idle do not "deserve" handouts. We Americans are never pragmatic, and often adopt social policies that are neither efficient nor humane because, given a choice, we would rather be right than safe or comfortable.

The French don't seem to have this moralism problem. They are good at managing paradox. Maybe it comes from their form of rather self-indulgent Roman Catholicism, which allows them to confess and continue, and pays little attention to restrictive rules about divorce or contraception, for example, but does seem to take seriously notions of humanity and brotherhood.

And beyond, or in spite of, religion, they seem to have the idea that life should be pleasant. Everyone should have five or six weeks of vacation. Babies stay in the hospital for a week or more to give mother and child a good start. Working mothers have day care.

Early retirement for people who work at hard jobs (and those who don't) is supported, despite inconvenient strikes by the people who are asking to quit at age 50 or 55 with generous pensions.

A Jospin supporter was quoted during a campaign rally on May 30 as saying that "people have a right to a little utopianism nowadays," meaning that they have earned it after the hardships of the government's feeble

attempts at belt-tightening. These efforts were never convincing, and never explained. Will the French eventually have, as we say, to pay the piper?

Certain things about France may not suit us. A French citizen accepts a certain measure of conformity to achieve social harmony. Diversity is not particularly admired — they attempt to be inclusive by treating each person, whether from Mali or Morocco, as French.

We, in our fashion, can jeer at utopianism, but the French have managed their high-cholesterol utopia rather well up to now, as their superb infrastructure of trains and metros, their Vuittons and Chaneels, their sumptuous museums and low crime rate attest. We could do well to look at their successes instead of, Protestant nation that we are, gloomily contemplating hell.

The writer, who divides her time between Paris and San Francisco, is author most recently of the novel "Le Divorce." The article above is reprinted from the New York Times.

Rehabilitating the Khmer Rouge

By Gwynne Dyer

"THIS IS the end of the Khmer Rouge," said Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh on June 16. Unfortunately, it is not true.

It is an agreeable image: Pol Pot, the pitiless ideologue under whose rule over a million Cambodians were killed, fleeing in a truck towards the Thai border ahead of his own vengeful comrades, lying on a stretcher with intravenous drips attached (he has been ill for a year), knowing at the end that absolutely everyone has turned against him. And this much of the story is probably true.

Most Cambodians want Pol Pot to die in agony and despair, and they may get their wish. Reports from north-western Cambodia, where the last few thousand Khmer Rouge troops were holding out in jungle camps, all confirm a split in the leadership that ended in shooting. All versions also have Pol Pot fleeing the Angkor Veng camp with a few hundred loyal troops, pursued by the rest.

All accounts also agree that before he fled, Pol Pot ordered the execution of Son Sen, the regime's chief

torturer (he ran the centre at Tuol Sleng where at least 20,000 were killed), and of his entire family. Photographs of Son Sen and his wife Yun Yuth, both with bullet holes in their heads, were produced in Phnom Penh last week by the army's deputy chief of staff, Nhiek Bun Chhay.

But after that the story gets less convincing. It is not true that the Khmer Rouge is breaking up; it is just changing leaders and sides. And it is unfortunately far from true that these events mark the end of Cambodia's long nightmare.

As Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy, recently escaped from an assassination attempt, told the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Bangkok last month: "The country is heading for civil war, for political disintegration and chaos."

Cambodia is the last and worst victim of the Vietnam war. All the present players and factions in Cambodian politics came out of that horror, and they are all still trapped by the deals and choices they had to make then.

When the United States overthrew neutralist Prince Norodom Sihanouk and

installed a puppet military regime in Cambodia in 1970, it created the ideal conditions for the rapid spread of the nationalist-communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas. And then, five years of carpet-bombing by B-52s effectively drove the guerrillas mad.

When the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh in 1975, just before the fall of Saigon, they set about trying to create a totally communist state where money did not even exist. They also set about eradicating all traces of foreign influence in the country, which in practice meant eradicating all educated people.

All this involved a great deal of killing: between one and two million of the 7 million Cambodians were executed or died of overwork, disease and ill-treatment in the next five years. Then the Khmer Rouge began killing off Cambodia's Vietnamese minority — and in late 1978, Vietnam invaded.

By mid-1979, the Khmer Rouge was only hanging on in jungle areas near the borders with Thailand, while the Vietnamese installed their own puppet government, made up mostly of Vietnamese-trained Communists, in the capital.

That is when the choices got really complex. Some Cambodians, like the man who ended up leading the puppet government, Hun Sen, felt that any compromise was worthwhile to free Cambodia from Pol Pot's genocidal gang. Others were so outraged by the Vietnamese invasion that they forged a bizarre alliance with the Khmer Rouge.

Both China and the United States gave military aid to the Khmer Rouge to keep the war going, and worked together to ensure that the guerrillas kept Cambodia's seat at the United Nations. And to mask the reality of that policy, they encouraged royalist forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk to make an alliance with Pol Pot.

Sen to fend off the renewed attacks of the Khmer Rouge.

Unfortunately, these partners hate one another: the royalists spent twelve years fighting Hun Sen's ex-Communists, and privately see them as traitors. Their constant infighting has frightened off most foreign investment. In the past year, it has escalated into assassinations, and even a grenade attack on a political rally.

There is a national election scheduled for late next year, but it often feels like the country is heading for civil war instead. This impasse had created new political opportunities for the Khmer Rouge, if they can just ditch their most notorious leaders. And the royalists are ready to welcome them back into politics if they do.

That is what is happening now. For the past year, Prince Ranariddh's people have been negotiating with Khieu Samphan, Pol Pot's deputy, to bring the guerrillas out of the bush and into the political arena: they will be handy allies if it comes to shooting, and worth some votes in next year's election if it does not.

It is an attempt to revive

the royalist-Khmer Rouge alliance of 1979-91. Prince Ranariddh's co-prime minister, Hun Sen, is against it, for obvious reasons, but it is working. About 10,000 Khmer Rouge troops "defected" last August, accepting an amnesty for their past misdeeds. And though Pol Pot and the remaining 2,000 rejected all overtures, people like Khieu Samphan kept the channels open.

It was General Nhiek Bun Chhay, a member of FUNCINPEC and Prince Ranariddh's military adviser, who went to the Khmer Rouge camp at Angkor Veng on June 1 to complete a deal that would have sent Pol Pot, Son Sen, and Ta Mok, the most blood-stained leaders, into exile, but let the rest back into Cambodian politics.

Pol Pot vetoed that, and now he is on the run. Khieu Samphan may or may not be his prisoner: that could be just an invention to distance him from the "bad" leaders of the Khmer Rouge in public opinion. Either way, Khieu Samphan could soon be back in Phnom Penh, helping the royalists either with the election or the civil war. His less well-known colleagues certainly will be.

Defactonomics

Doha summit should have new emphasis

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference was designed after Madrid as an integral component of the peace process. It meant that Israel, under that process, was becoming a business and economic partner. Hence, Arab economic boycott and Israeli isolation would have come to an end.

Indeed, the three summits that were held so far involved a large number of businessmen and officials from the Arab countries, Israel and many others. They established contacts, encouraged MENA countries to formulate their respective reports and present their development of multi-billion projects, and led to the creation of regional councils for businessmen and tourism officials.

There was even apprehension among many Arab intellectuals that the MENA summits would become a substitute for Arab economic integration which, anyway, was facing serious obstacles and appeared to have only marginal achievements. The new Middle East, à la Shimon Peres, seemed operational, provided the MENA summits remained a viable platform.

In reality, however, there appeared to be many limitations to these economic conferences. The MENA countries, including Israel, seemed to be competing with each other in promoting themselves for foreign investments. The proposed regional projects were of vital importance but no financing was forthcoming. The regional councils that were established remained shallow and inactive. The Middle East Bank for Reconstruction and Development and complementary other regional initiatives and institutions.

I believe holding the Doha summit next November is a good idea, provided that its emphasis is changed.

position, meant that there was nothing to talk about. That is why the Cairo summit of 1996 was managed as an opportunity to promote investments in Egypt and to define broad conditions for regional cooperation. The Israeli participation in that summit was de-emphasised, given that many Egyptian writers were vocal against holding the event.

Now the Doha summit is inheriting all the above limitations. Furthermore, the peace process is currently at a halt. Qatar does not need foreign investments but looks for a regional role. Hence, unless a breakthrough is made in the peace process, the Doha summit would face the law of diminishing returns.

"Unless a breakthrough is made in the peace process, the Doha summit would face the law of diminishing returns."

There is one new positive element in the ever-changing conditions of the Middle East: the recently announced Middle East Fund for Peace and Stability. The success of the Jordanian leadership to underline the need for this fund and the positive response of the American administration were crucial in the creation of the fund. The Doha summit is expected to pick up this positive development and build on it. It will overshadow the Middle East Bank for Reconstruction and Development and complementary other regional initiatives and institutions.

I believe holding the Doha summit next November is a good idea, provided that its emphasis is changed.

'The key that unlocks growth with fairness is widespread access to relevant education'

By Harlan Cleveland

The writer was assistant secretary of state in the Kennedy administration, U.S. ambassador in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) under the Johnson and Nixon administrations and authored many articles and books on leadership. Speaking at the international leadership programme currently being held in Amman by the United Nations University (UNU)/International Leadership Academy (ILA), he outlined in six lectures his theory on the "information-era" we are entering. Information, according to him, has become the world's most important resource, and it is the key to explain "some of the biggest why-questions about the times ahead of us," such as "why, in our communities and our world, nobody can possibly be in general charge of anything, why diversity will be the law of life and of leadership on this planet, and why, more and more, the followers everywhere so often get to the policy answers before their leaders do." Following are excerpts from his lecture titled "Leadership: The global fairness resolution".

IT IS because information has become so dominant a resource that education — in the skills needed to acquire, interpret and process information, and the attitudes needed to thread hits of knowledge together to solve problems — is today the foundation for success, in dissidence or governance, for individuals, groups and whole societies.

What does this easier, wider accessibility of useful information imply for access to the power and affluence that knowledge brings in its wake? Theoretically, at least, compared to things-as-resource, information-as-resource should encourage:

- the spreading of benefits rather than the concentration of wealth (information is harder to hide and to board, and can be more readily shared, than petroleum or gold or land or fresh water); and
- the maximisation of choice rather than the suppression of diversity (the informed are harder to regiment than the uninformed).

In the industrial era, poverty was explained and justified by shortages of things: There just weren't enough minerals, food, fibre and manufactures to go around. Looked at this way, the resource shortages were merely aggravated by the propensity of the poor to have babies.

In the information society, physical resources are elbowed from centre stage by information, the resource that is harder for the rich and powerful to hide or hoard. Each of the babies, poor or not, is born with a brain. The collective capacity of all the brains in each society to convert information into knowledge and wisdom is the measure of that society's potential.

Whether the informationisation of the globe will actually mean a fairer shake for those who in earlier times have been the victims of discrimination depends mostly on what they do from now on.

In the agricultural era, poverty and discrimination were explained and justified by the shortages of things: There just weren't enough minerals, food, fibres, and manufactures to go around, so those who got them first felt little obligation to share them with anyone who could not wrest them by force from the early arriers.

As information — abundant, shareable, instantly accessible — now becomes the world's dominant resource, what does that mean for the prospects for fairness? Surely it means that people who get educated to convert information into knowledge and wisdom, who hone their intuitive powers, who learn how to

achieve access to information (and even more important) how to select what they need from the information overload, will likely be better off and more fairly treated than those that do not.

Two things are happening, in parallel, which forecast a sudden enhancement of fairness worldwide. One is that, as information leaks around the globe, very large numbers of people will be learning about what goes on elsewhere — good things happening in places near or far that could happen to them if their leaders were wiser and more flexible, and bad things happening to other people which could fall out on them if they do not watch out.

During the revolutions of 1989-91 that pulled the fraying rugs from under the communist regimes of Eastern Europe, then swept into history the Soviet Union itself, the impatient crowds in the big public squares were moved not by distant visions of Utopia but by spreading information about neighbours in Western Europe who were obviously getting more goods and services, more fairness in their distribution, and firmer guarantees of human rights than their own bosses and planners seemed able to deliver.

The good news was that information leaked — and that sharing has long been the natural mode of scientific and cultural communication. The changing information environment was bound to undermine the knowledge monopolies that totalitarian governments had converted into monopolies of power. The cascading revolutions a few years ago were dramatic in their details and unpredictable in their timing, but they were no surprise to those who had noticed the way the eastward information flow — by television, radio, facsimile and telephone — served as an envy-thy-neighbour machine, breeding people's intolerance and foot-dragging by their own long-time leaders who simply couldn't liberalise their policies fast enough to escape the people's wrath.

Around the world outside of Europe, the intensified spread of information was also enhancing the people's political aspirations on every continent — not so much selling them Western concepts of freedom and democracy as persuading them, by the millions, that they rated a say in policies that bore on their own lives and destinies.

The second happening that reinforces the global fairness revolution is the world consensus that is forming on international human rights, which make their protection by public authorities a matter of international attention, international lobbying, and international law.

In the long history of human civilisation, says Professor Elaine Pagels of Princeton University, the modern idea of human rights would have to be listed as "new business."

The old business was rights conferred or arrogated, granted by God if that could be arranged but if necessary seized by force and maintained by claims of superiority on account of birth, rank, race, early arrival, or self-anointed citizenship, and ultimately by force.

We may be living, even if we are not yet fully articulating, one of those profound shifts in human values that come along every few hundred years. The kernel of individual human rights was always there in the practice of an exceptional few: The civil disobedience that brought Daniel to the lion's den, the claim of the early Christians that Rome governed by transgressing the dictates of the divine — precedents for Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela and Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel, who violated laws inconsistent with the inherent rights of human beings.

Only with the Enlightenment came a growing acceptance of the idea that every person has rights that are not conferred by society but must be recognised, even protected, by society.

Today, three crowded centuries and many revolutions later, the content of these rights is codified in the U.N.'s 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and spelled out further in international agreements and conventions, some of the still unratified. The content of "human rights" is still debated, and no one's minimum list is anywhere fully realised. Yet we sense that this late-starting idea, mostly Western in origin, is on its way to universality. The idea of human rights, the notion that societies should be governed "as if people mattered," is so fundamental, so "natural," so obvious once revealed, that it may just be the first revolution to achieve a global reach.

In the 1948 declaration and in numerous statements by governments, the traditional "freedoms from" (that is, rights the state can guarantee by simply not mistreating those who reside within its jurisdiction) are bracketed with a couple of "freedoms to" that can only be assured by the state's affirmative action. These are an entitlement to basic human needs (now usually defined as socially determined but culturally and geographically various minimums of food, shelter, clothing, education and employment) and the right not to be discriminated against by reason of being different — a different race, a different sex, a different national origin.

It is this fusion of "freedoms from" and "freedoms to" that is now the politically relevant definition of fairness. It is best "enforced," it seems, by the embarrassment of exposure and the aroused opinion of relevant publics. Not even the totalitarian Kremlin or the long-dug-in South African authorities proved capable of ignoring forever what the American Declaration of Independence called "the general opinion of mankind."

The chain reaction of human rights and democratic values is proving to be explosive, and that explosive power is now somewhere near the centre of world politics.

The rich countries — and the rich people in the poor countries — thus face a global fairness revolution, multiplying the demands on a world economic system that still knows how to include only a minority of humankind in its benefits. Both among and within the "nation-states" of the

twentieth century, the old French warning retains its relevance: *Entre le fort et le faible, c'est la liberté qui opprime et la loi qui affranchit.* (In relations between the strong and the weak, it's freedom that oppresses and law that liberates).

But if law is too rigid and universal, as Aristotle had already figured out two and a half millennia ago, the urge for equality or fairness will arise to correct the law.

Societies flexible enough to adapt to the pressure from the "downs" (as the United States has been doing, not without controversy, conflict and coercion, on school integration, water rights, sex discrimination and equal opportunity), manage to keep change comparatively peaceful.

The key that unlocks "growth with fairness," in the United States and elsewhere in the global information society, is widespread access to relevant education.

Around the horizon of the developing world, in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the close connection between education and equitable development is now crystal clear: the poor can get rich by brainwork.

The Japanese amply illustrated this theorem of wealth creation from the earliest dawn of the information era. In our own time the hustling people of South Korea, empowered and emboldened by a national policy of universal education dating from the 1950s, and of Taiwan, Singapore and Israel have in their differing fashions provided a more recent demonstration. Their economies have not only grown faster than those in other developing countries, but the benefits of that growth have been spread more fairly among their own people than in developing countries that are "favoured" (as they are not) by the presence of oil or hard minerals or good soil or moderate climate.

Indeed, the growing importance of information in creating wealth has to be good news for countries less endowed with geological riches and arable farmland than were the early arrivers of the industrial age. Around the developing world, the startling paradox is that the most successful countries are precisely those not blessed with wealth-creating natural resources.

A country such as Japan, with virtually no conventional fuels or outcroppings of useful minerals, with a short growing season and much farmland we would call marginal, was forced by physical poverty to bet on the only sure resource it had: the minds of its own people. Getting them all (not just an elite few) educated turned out to be the most profitable investment of all. Despite the unusually high language barrier, the educated minds of Japan seemed able to derive from the global information flow the data, information, knowledge and insight to create the wisdom that led to a strategy for rapid "growth with fairness."

Nor does this mean they had to swallow Western culture whole along with the industrial, agricultural and information technologies they import, improve, then export. The Japanese, after more than a century of "modernisation," are still strikingly Japanese. The South Koreans, after half a century of intensive Western exposure, are still strikingly Korean. The Chinese of Singapore have managed to become "modern" without becoming more than superficially "Western."

To chart the potentials of the worldwide information revolution is not to

fulfill them. The predictable trends in information technology will make it possible to organise as a commons most of the world's most useful information, serving it up to those on every continent who take the trouble and make the effort to convert it into usable knowledge and practical wisdom.

That is not to say that this will happen. However, it does help remake two main points. First: those who now think "it isn't fair" will have plenty of opportunity to get access to almost any information now being withheld from them in their disadvantage. But second: they will have to prepare their brains for the task, and they will have to want to work hard at it. In the information society as in its predecessors, there is no free lunch.

In the rapidly changing information environment, there will be much less excuse in the future than in the past for depriving whole populations of the benefits of development that could benefit the many, not just the few. There will also be less excuse than in any previous time for the leaders of the disadvantaged to blame their condition on the world's barons and bosses, when the accessible information needed to create their own knowledge and wisdom is already floating out there in the atmosphere.



Egypt says Arabs fed up with Israel's sweet talk

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs have had our fill of talk and promises. There has to be a sound offer (from Israel) which gets things moving."

The Syrians have said they don't want to go back to square one and I think Netanyahu has heard this. If he has something new, then I know nothing about it," he added.

On Israeli-Palestinian talks, on hold since Israel started building a new settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in March, Mr. Musa said President Hosni Mubarak invited Mr. Netanyahu to Egypt in May because Mr. Netanyahu told him on the phone that he had new ideas.

"But it turned out that he didn't have any new ideas,

just promises and sweet talk," the minister added.

When Egyptian envoy Osama Al Baz later went to see Mr. Netanyahu as part of Egypt's mediation attempt, the Israeli prime minister spoke about building houses for Palestinians and "speeding up this or that question," he said.

"But when Baz had talks with the Palestinians, the question was 'What about the (Jewish) settlements?' We are awaiting from the Israelis an answer on the question of settlements," he added.

On U.S. aid to Egypt, under threat from right-wing supporters of Israel in Congress, Mr. Musa said Egypt realised some time ago that U.S. aid, running at about \$2.1 billion a year since the late 1970s, would

not last forever.

The aid, once a major contribution to the Egyptian economy, has declined in significance over the years as the economy grows and inflation erodes the real value of the aid.

Last Wednesday the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations removed the earmark for Egypt but agreed to provide Israel with \$3 billion.

Subcommittee chairman, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, was highly critical of Egypt's involvement in the peace process, charging that Mr. Mubarak had undercut negotiations on Jewish settlements in Hebron and taken the lead in suspending multilateral peace talks.

U.N. Security Council...

(Continued from page 1)

was drafted after UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus Wednesday demanded a "firm reaction" from the Council after Iraqi officials last week prevented his inspectors from visiting military sites.

The U.S.-British text initially called on all states to deny entry to Iraqi government officials and armed forces members.

But under pressure from several delegations, including the other three perma-

nent members China, Russia and France, the text was watered down.

The U.S.-British draft now pinpoints with the international travel ban "Iraqi armed forces, police and intelligence services, and all employees of the Iraqi Ministry of Defence and Military Industrial Commission."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who risked being the victim of the initial resolution had it been adopted, arrived in New York Saturday as the U.N.

Security Council continued to weigh U.S. proposals to impose an international travel ban on the Iraqi military.

Iraq and the U.N. arms inspectors have been engaged in a mounting war of words in recent days as Mr. Ekeus prepares to leave his post at the end of the month. His inspectors are tracking down Iraqi weapons of mass destruction in line with U.N. resolutions adopted after the 1991 Gulf war.

Turkey's Yilmaz calls on Ciller

(Continued from page 1)

She had expected the president's nod to form a government after presenting a plan to revamp her one-year-old coalition with Mr. Erbakan. Pro-Western Ms. Ciller, bad the backing of 282 deputies, at least on paper.

Mr. Erbakan, modern Turkey's first Islamist

leader until he was forced out on June 18 under army pressure, denounced the selection of Mr. Yilmaz as violating democratic practice.

One of Mr. Erbakan's closest aides predicted that Mr. Yilmaz would fail in his bid and return the mandate to the president within three weeks. "The only winner in this is the Welfare party," the

party's deputy leader, Oguzhan Asilturk told a news conference.

The powerful secularist military, which has staged three coups since 1960, played a key role in Mr. Erbakan's downfall with demands for a crackdown on what it said was a rise in Islamist activism fostered by his government.

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Mu'tah students find high unemployment, poor services and poverty in southern regions

By Lola Kellani
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — Despite the fact that Jordan's main natural resources and antiquities are to be found in the south of the Kingdom, 27 students from the Mu'tah University detected during a survey tour of four governorates that abject poverty, high rate of unemployment and poor governmental services were also the major features of that region.

The students, from the Faculty of Economics, were involved in a project entitled: "Development of the South Region," which was conducted in cooperation with the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FEF), in order "to pinpoint through direct communication the needs of the residents of the four governorates and come up with solid developmental projects," said Manfred Haack, the representative of the FEF in Jordan.

Mr. Haack stressed that "economic policies should be introduced in a communicative way as the residents of the area are more knowledgeable of their requirements."

Mr. Haack said that the

FEF approached the university because it has the mandate to develop the south and therefore "could act as a mediator between the needs of the people and the government."

After ending the 14-practical-days approach, the university will be able to come up with development projects that would meet the requirements of the residents, "in order to upgrade the living conditions of the majority of the people," said Saud al Tayyab, the deputy director of the project at the university.

Dr. Saud told the Jordan Times that after conducting a feasibility study on the proposed projects, the university will search for private local, foreign and governmental sources to finance the projects.

"The area should become a focal point to draw the people to the region rather than driving them away," he said, adding that the survey will show the type of unemployment, the amount of investment needed to reduce poverty, as well as the loca-

tions of the most underprivileged areas.

"If the unemployment is due to unskilled labour, the university will hold training workshops for them," he said.

Beside the need to establish small income generating projects, the students who toured 44 villages, stressed that the abject poverty which seemed like a vicious circle, increased the rate of school dropouts.

Such a situation, which in the long-term results in unskilled labour, could be remedied by spreading awareness of important social issues which the residents could benefit from, the students indicated.

The students stressed that the level of education was low due to the large number of family members and a lack of appreciation of the importance of education, especially for females.

They explained that the majority of the boys had to leave school at an early age to work as herdsmen whereas girls were required to work in the houses due to the large number of family members.

"Women are only allowed to work as teachers. However, with

the high rate of unemployment, families do not favour educating girls as they will not be able to secure teaching jobs," they said.

The students also highlighted the high rate of polygamy and the lack of family planning.

"A father would have to ask for the family book to remember the names of his children," said Khawlah Wazani, a student in her third year. She added that the majority of the family "wrongly believe that family planning was haram (prohibited by religion)."

The outcome of the study will be presented in two seminars.

The first, to be held this month, will be exchanging the information collected individually by the students who participated in the survey which covered Aqaba, Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an.

The second seminar, to be held after analysing the 4,000 questionnaires, will invite the decision makers of the southern region as well as representatives of governmental and non-governmental companies to debate the recommendations of the study.

Abu Shakra Trading Agency Introduces Le Teint Ricci cosmetic products

DIRECTOR GENERAL of Abu Shakra Trading Agency Rami Abu Shakra Wednesday introduced Le Teint Ricci cosmetic product from Nina Ricci to the Jordanian market at a press conference held at Abu Shakra's showroom in Gardens Street. In a statement to the Jordan Times, Regional Director of Nina Ricci Patrick Bouchard said ever since its foundation in 1932, Nina Ricci has been devoted to the beauty in women, beauty that presents a complete picture. Therefore, it was only natural that Nina Ricci should create a beauty line: "Le Teint Ricci."

Speaking about features of Le Teint Ricci cosmetics, Mr. Bouchard said Nina Ricci has created a musical score of colour harmonies for every woman to design her own individual style of beauty and the freedom to create her own most attractive look.

Attentive to women's needs and determined to satisfy them, Le Teint Ricci products have been rigorously tested to ensure maximum safety in application. The products containing Catalyseur De Beaute, naturally treat and protect the skin, by helping the complexion recover its full radiance through a smoother skin texture, optimum light reflection and long-lasting self protection.

Le Teint Ricci is a three-step approach include a cleansing gel and milk, a cleansing bar and a beauty mask guiding a woman through her daily beauty care ritual in sensuously attractive shapes and colour, in order to achieve her loveliest complexion.

Le Teint Ricci have the same smell of Nina Ricci perfumes and same baking.

Mr. Bouchard said Le Teint Ricci introduced in 1992 in Europe then in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, followed by Lebanon and now in Jordan.

Kuwaiti panel proposes up to 100% foreign ownership of local companies

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti government committee is reviewing a draft law that could allow foreign investors 100 per cent ownership of local companies and a 10-year tax exemption, the committee's head has said.

Foreign investors are currently limited to a 49 per cent stake in local companies, while foreign firms operating here directly or through an agent face taxes on their income of up to 55 per cent.

Local firms are not taxed. Rashed Al Mijren, under-secretary at the Commerce and Industry Ministry, said the draft law drawn up by the committee proposes allowing foreigners up to 100 per cent ownership in local firms.

"It depends on the project and depends on what the foreigner wants," Mr. Mijren

who heads the committee told AFP, adding that any foreign investor could also expect to have a 10-year tax exemption.

The committee is carrying out the final review of the draft, which could be completed in two months, after which it will be submitted to the government and parliament for approval, Mr. Mijren said.

He said that the draft, if passed into law, would mark a "major change" for Kuwait by offering foreign investors a majority stake in local firms and so giving them management control.

Economists say foreign investors tend to shy away from investment where they cannot have overall control to run a company. The committee was formed by the Commerce and Industry Minister Jassem Al Mudhaf.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7299	0.8036	1.4405	114.70	1.3690	1690.00	1.9460	5.8280
DE Mark	0.5781	1.0000	0.8327	0.6630	0.8026	0.7854	1.1248	3.3688	9.8280
GB Sterling	1.2500	1.2100	1.0000	0.7937	163.33	2.3613	2799.99	3.2241	9.8558
CH Franc	0.6942	1.2001	0.8155	1.0000	79.81	0.9636	1172.39	135.15	4.0430
JP Yen	0.0084	1.5069	0.8254	1.2543	1.0000	1.2089	14.72	169.51	5.0767
CA Dollar	0.7100	1.2445	0.8340	1.0565	1.21	1.2153	1.4000	4.1928	12.0000
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0230	0.3587	0.8852	1475.36	0.8214	11.51	3.4465	2.9941
NL Guilder	0.5139	0.8837	0.3098	0.7482	58.91	0.7136	868.23	3.3800	10.0000
FR Franc	0.1716	0.2967	0.1035	0.2470	19.36	0.2383	33.38	1.0000	3.3688

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7299	0.8036	1.4405	114.70	1.3690	1690.00	1.9460	5.8280
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.4375	1.9972	2.8110	3.0473	3.7878	4.6179	13.5879	39.6101
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.4588	0.3750	0.57	0.6007	0.98	409.42	0.9038	2.6111
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	4.5781	3.7485	5.4110	5.8924	7.34	4073.16	11.9911	35.5555
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4746	0.3904	0.5804	0.6331	1.01	421.86	0.9312	2.6667
Kuwait Dinar	3.3058	5.6905	4.6360	6.6666	7.26	12.14	5076.03	0.9312	26.6667
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.4718	0.3891	0.5781	0.6284	1.01	418.07	0.9312	2.6667
Lebanese 1000	0.65	1.1211	0.9188	1.3425	1.4700	1.8319	2.2074	6.5000	18.1818
Egyptian	0.2980	0.5169	0.4211	0.6112	1.0739	0.8892	1.0835	453.02	12.7273

Energy		
Oil	East	West
Brent	17.58	17.80
WTI	18.55	18.70
Bonny	17.55	17.60
Dubai	16.80	16.73
UL Gas	180.00	179.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2064	0.3584	0.2933	0.3543	30.6101
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4711	0.3891	0.5781	6.2857
KW Dinar	3.3058	5.6905	4.6360	6.6666	7.26
BH Dinar	0.2723	0.4718	0.3891	0.5781	6.2857
CY Pound	1.9435	3.3621	1.1723	2.7996	222.92

Metal Prices		
Metal	USD	DEM
Gold (oz's)	337.75	338.23
Silver (oz's)	4.71	4.75
Platinum (oz's)	417.2	422.2
AL (3 Months)	1572	1570
CU (3 Months)	2525	2530
Zinc (3 Months)	1393	1396
Lead (3 Months)	820	823
NI (3 Months)	7190	7220

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	1 Year
USD	5.56	5.55	5.75	5.84	5.96
GBP	6.50	6.50	6.59	6.57	7.18
JPY	0.43	0.40	0.50	0.56	0.60
DEM	3.00	2.88	3.08	3.12	3.17
FRF	3.12	3.28	3.38	3.39	3.44
CHF	1.18	1.28	1.21	1.43	1.50
ITL	0.77	0.85	0.55	0.46	0.37

Main Equity Indices							
Source	Index	Value	Change	Chng	High	Low	P/C
New York	DOW JONES	7796.51	10.45	0.25	7834.06	7777.06	7777.06
New York	S&P 500	898.7	0.71	0.08	901.77	897.77	897.99
London	FT-SE 100	4593.9	-59.8	-1.29	4672.1	4593.9	4653.7
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20385.54	-122.31	-0.6	20574	20395.5	20507.9
Paris	CAC 40	2757.1	17.41	0.64	2770.53	2716.05	2739.69
Frankfurt	DAX	3788.27	39	1.04	3798.94	3739.51	3749.27

Energy		
Commodity	Unit	Price
Coffee (c/lb)	158	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1636	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	329	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	142.5	Spot
Soybeans (\$/ton)	222.5	Spot
Tea (kg/box)	1.05	Spot
Barley (\$/bush)	8	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	USD	DEM
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1717	1.1776
DE Mark	0.4089	0.4109
CH Franc	0.491	0.4935
FR Franc	0.1224	0.122
JP Yen	0.6163	0.6184
NL Guilder	0.3632	0.365
IT Lira	0.4184	0.4205

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

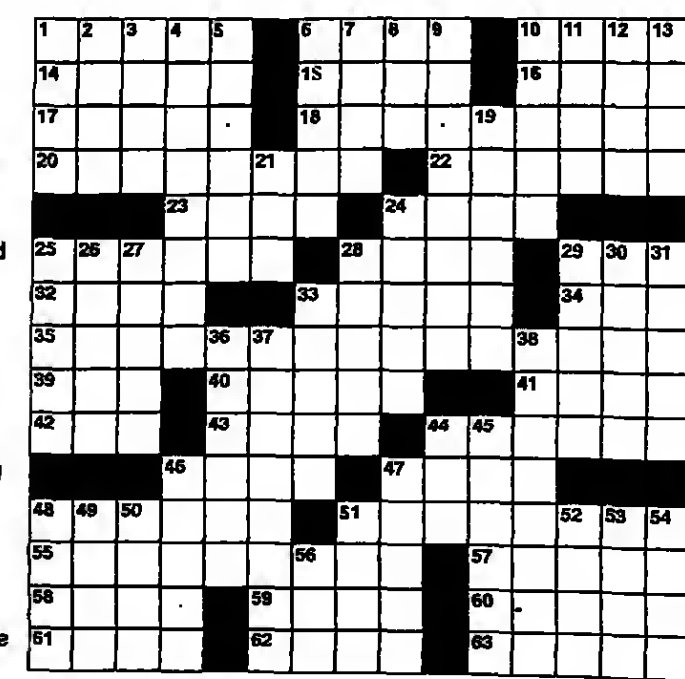
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

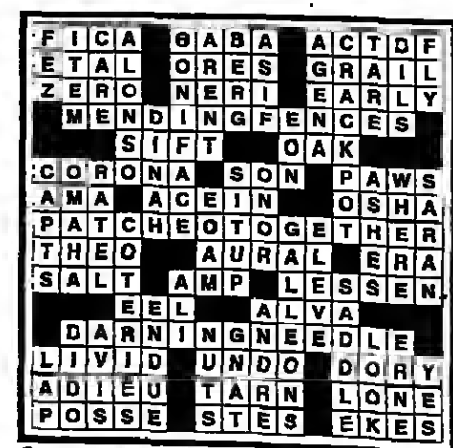
- Far from fresh
- Church part
- Collar
- Japanese monster movie
- Blessing
- Uncivil
- To wit
- Canberra's land
- Most disreputable
- Take umbrage
- English composer
- Letterman, familiarly
- Expiated
- Tennille of song
- Suitable
- Napoleon won here
- Cost
- Phooey!
- Moby Dick
- Vowel sequence
- Crows
- Cake decorator
- Tin Tin
- Excellent
- Lower in quality
- Whirlpool
- Domicile
- Fungus
- Estern
- Ethiopia, once
- Enroll
- Only
- Approach
- Vexes
- A jump in a figure skating
- Nitwit
- Holy person

DOWN

- Speaker of baseball
- Travelled
- Thought
- Van Diemen's land
- Complete
- Demean
- Sulk
- Help!
- Fill with rapture
- Delete
- Marsh plant
- Assir ruler
- Shipshape
- Critique
- Terminate
- Trifles
- Horatio
- Japanese gateway
- Melancholy (Keats)
- Kid's vehicle
- Fiber plant
- Blanches
- Yonder
- Fake
- Exchanges
- Oboe
- Ireland
- Crime leader
- Turkish officials
- Ford flop
- Have a —!
- Lady of the house
- Wild goat
- Harp family member
- Bottle
- King of the Huns
- Adolescent
- Formerly, once
- Recent; pref.



by Florence C. Adler



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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go over your budget carefully today, and try to cut any unnecessary expenses so that you will have extra funds for an emergency. Don't let anyone involve you in a hair-brained scheme which could present difficulties.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you feel that your personal life is not operating correctly at this time, you can make successful changes for the days ahead. Be more tactful with your friends later this evening and you can avoid any difficulties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day today to handle personal affairs for which you have had little time during the week. Be more attentive to your mate and show that you do appreciate him or her in your life by doing something special.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If a good friend of yours is having difficulties at this time, offer this person your assistance and this will be very much appreciated. Be more conscientious at your place of business and you will get noticed by those in authority.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get into some public career activities which will improve your reputation in the community. Avoid a superior who is looking for a scapegoat and who will create difficulties for you in the days ahead with your career.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Before putting any new ideas into motion today, make sure they are practical and thereby make your efforts noticed by a bigwig. A new acquaintance may try to fool you later this evening, so proceed cautiously.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure you go out of your way to help a stranger today, be sure the need is genuine so you won't be taken. Be sure to drive with great care while on the highway later this evening and thereby avoid any difficulties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A fellow associate and you could butt heads today until the cows come home, so try to reach a compromise which can be quite beneficial. Rest up at home with your loved ones later this for you will have a busy few days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure you carefully check any written communications you send out today, as there could be some rather costly mistakes which if not caught could be embarrassing. Later this evening will be good for going out with your mate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are tempted to overspend where entertainment is concerned today, however, refrain from doing so or you won't have any extra funds for an emergency. Be very precise in any creative career activities you are involved with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) The situation at home requires tact and diplomacy today, otherwise some bad feelings could arise which could be hard to get rid of in the days ahead. Later this evening will be a good time to seek out the advice of a bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Steer clear of an annoying neighbour today, as this person could cause you to lose your temper and say something you could regret. Use much care in motion of any kind while on the highway and avoid any difficulties.

Birthstone of June:
Pearl — Moon Stone

Egypt to wrap up privatisation programme by year 2000

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will sell shares in 50 public sector firms on international markets next year as part of plans to wrap up its privatisation programme by 2000, a minister has said.

"In October we will sell to foreign investors on the international markets shares from 50 public sector firms," Business Sector Minister Atef Ebeid said, adding that foreign investors will be able to control 10 per cent of the shares.

"Priority will be given to foreign investors who have the technological and administrative know-how over those with the financial potential," Mr. Ebeid said, according to the government newspaper Al-Ahram.

Mr. Ebeid did not identify the companies involved.

But he said he expected the total privatisation of 314 public sector firms would generate "50 billion pounds (around \$15 billion) in revenues after clearing their debts."

Mr. Ebeid said Egypt wanted to wrap up by the year 2000 the privatisation programme which it launched at the end of 1991.

In an effort to reach that goal, Egypt has cleaned up the state of 162 public sector firms which were facing financial losses and now earn profits.

A senior official in the ministry responsible for privatisation said recently that privatising Egyptian utilities such as water, gas and electricity will have to wait until the utilities can charge consumers market prices.

Official sources said in January that the government

planned to invite the private sector into water and sewerage projects some time in February but nothing has come of the plan.

The government also wants the private sector to finance power generation schemes but these would sell electricity to the national grid, not directly to consumers.

The official, Public Enterprise Ministry Undersecretary Mukhtar Khattab, said: "Privatising public utilities will take place at a later stage of the reforms because the producers... still sell many of their products to the public at uneconomic prices."

"The process of liberalising the prices is still continuing and hasn't come to an end yet," he added.

Utility prices have hardly changed since a series of sharp increases in the early

1990s and the official gave no indication when the next round would come.

If the state privatised the utilities now, the buyers would charge "economical" prices and this would have the socially undesirable effect of hitting the poor, he added.

The official also identified overstaffing at public-sector companies as an obstacle to privatisation, despite relatively few problems with staffing at companies privatised so far.

He said overstaffing levels stood at around 18 per cent in the public-enterprise sector, which now employs 908,000 people.

Potential investors in the companies might estimate the overstaffing level at between 35 to 40 per cent, he added.

The public-enterprise sector includes more than 300

state companies slated for eventual privatisation. It does not include utilities, public transport, banking and many other sectors.

Mr. Khattab said the state had spent 200 million pounds (\$59 million) on 11,000 public-sector workers who opted for early retirement to pave the way for privatisation.

The total cost of the early retirement scheme could eventually reach 11 billion pounds, he added.

Employment in the state companies fell from 1,083,000 in June 1990 to 908,000 in June 1996, mainly through natural attrition, he said. He did not say how this figure was affected by privatised companies moving out of the public sector.

U.S. tobacco firms find profits abroad

WASHINGTON (AFP) — While tobacco companies are under fire in the United States, the same firms are finding a growing portion of their profits coming from friendlier and larger markets abroad.

Smokers around the globe are lighting up Marlboros and other famous U.S. brands like never before.

U.S. manufacturers exported a record 243.9 billion cigarettes in 1996, with Japan the best customer, according to the Tobacco Merchants Association of the United States (TMAA).

Total exports of tobacco products were valued at \$5.34 billion in 1996, although the value of cigarette exports dipped slightly from \$4.77 billion in 1995 to \$4.74 billion.

Japan was at the top of the table among destinations for U.S. cigarettes, taking over 67.74 billion pieces, worth \$1.52 billion and accounting for 27.8 per cent of total cigarette exports.

The others on the top 10 list in declining order were Belgium, Russia, Lebanon, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Finland, South Korea and Hong Kong.

No company has seen more remarkable growth than Philip Morris.

Its Marlboro brand, first marketed in the United States in the late 1920s as "mild as May" smokes for women, has become the best-selling packaged consumer product in the world.

Philip Morris International tapped the global market decades ago. But as trade barriers have dropped in recent years, or been priced open thanks to fierce U.S. lobbying, the company has built, or rebuilt, cigarette factories from eastern and central Europe to China.

And the increasingly

affluent are snatching these Western symbols as fast as they come off the assembly line.

Philip Morris has just under 12 per cent of the world market, up from 8.5 per cent in 1991, according to the company's figures.

In France, Marlboro recently passed Gauloise Brune as the top selling cigarette.

And in 1995, the company had 60 per cent of the market in Argentina, 55 per cent in Hong Kong and 15.5 per cent in Japan.

For Philip Morris and its nearest U.S. competitor R.J. Reynolds, the second largest U.S. tobacco firm, non-U.S. sales receipts now represent more than half the total.

To anti-smoking activists, the incursion abroad is the latest move by a predatory industry bent on spreading a deadly product to the developing world.

One reason cited: U.S. companies have poured millions into advertising their wares abroad, often in markets where advertising had been minimal, according to the study.

Philip Morris, for example, sponsored a Marlboro soccer league in China, and R.J. Reynolds (Winston, Salem, Camel) has sponsored youth-oriented music stores called Salem Power Stations in Malaysia.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), three million people die each year from smoking-related disease, a number it says could rise to 10 million by the year 2025.

And WHO says that of the world's 1.1 billion smokers in the early 1990s, 800 million — almost 75 per cent — live in developing nations.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arab Jordan Investment Bank maintains high level of earnings

THE ARAB Jordan Investment Bank maintained its 1995 level of earnings by recording JD17.4 million in 1996. Of this amount, JD13.9 million, or 79.9 per cent, were interest earned, JD1.9 million in commissions, JD0.8 million of profits from the securities portfolio and JD0.6 million of profits from foreign exchange trading were additional earnings. With total expenses, including interest paid, amounting to JD14.7 million, the bank posted a JD2.6 million profit in 1996 compared to JD2.4 million in 1995.

Deposits of clients were 2.8 per cent lower than last year as they totalled JD141 million compared to JD145 million at the end of the preceding year. Board Chairman Abdul Qader Al Qadi attributed the decline to the bank's unwillingness to raise interest due to high liquidity and, as such, causing some withdrawals of deposits. Referring to "deposits inside the Kingdom," the bank gave the total volume to be JD100.8 million of which JD47.2 million were the equivalent in foreign currency deposits. In 1995, the deposits inside the Kingdom amounted to JD115.2 million of which the foreign currency portion was the equivalent of JD63.1 million.

Deposits from local banks at the end of 1996 amounted to JD13.7 million of which JD856,000 were the equivalent in foreign currency. Foreign bank deposits, however, were much higher as they totalled JD35.7 million. In terms of the gross total of deposits the figure for 1996 was JD190.5 million (JD183.2 million at the end of 1995).

Investments in securities totalled JD13.7 million (JD10.9 million in 1995) as the bank participated in founding new companies such as the Mediterranean Tourism Investment Company in which the bank invested JD1.5 million. This company will be building and managing the Four Seasons Hotel in Amman.

The bank boosted its lending by 13.5 per cent, or JD8.3 million, last year as the total credit facilities amounted to JD68.8 million (JD60.6 million in 1995). The net lending portfolio stood, however, at JD65.6 million (JD57.2 million). Mr. Qadi indicated that the local credit facilities increased by 5.6 per cent from JD58.9 million to JD62.2 million. This increase was accompanied by a 7.3 per cent increase in the total direct local lending which went up from JD58.9 million to JD62.2 million.

Other financial figures shown in the bank's annual report were:

1) Lower cash at hand and at banks as more funds were lent or invested. The total declined from JD140.7 million at the end of 1995 to about JD137 million at the end of 1996.

2) Total assets increased by 3.5 per cent from JD216.2 million to JD223.8 million.

3) Total shareholders' equity rose by 8.6 per cent from JD23.6 million to JD25.6 million.

The bank's general assembly approved doubling the capital to JD20 million and entrusted the executive management to decide the method and the timing for the implementation (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Toothpaste on a bagel isn't half bad...and I don't have to waste time brushing my teeth in the morning!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYGOL

ENZOO

DITNIC

YOMPLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUCIO ALTAR BIKINI CAUGHT
Answer: Where King Arthur and his pals relaxed — AT A "NIGHT" CLUB

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE LIST FOR SATURDAY 21/06/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
269,250	213,000	ARAB BANK	11.6	1.50	1	60	15120	252.00	252.00	-	
2,340	1,680	JOR. NAT. COMM. BK.	8	0.00	21	2100	14760	2.09	2.09	-	
3,661	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.7	0.00	4	1250	3926	3.13	3.13	-0.04	
5,221	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.8	3.92	14	18510	91624	4.95	4.95	-	
3,340	2,440	JOR. ECON. BANK	12.2	0.00	80	42818	144222	3.36	3.44	-0.08	
1,050	780	JOR. C. & F. BANK	5.2	7.95	8	10000	8705	.88	.88	-	
4,650	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.8	3.11	11	19120	6975	3.69	3.63	-0.06	
3,820	3,000	JOR. INV. FIS. BANK	19.9	0.00	3	285	881	3.12	3.10	-0.02	
2,700	1,000	SEIT. AL-HAL (REIT)	7	13.39	6	1350	1388	1.07	1.12	-0.05	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 194.36 CHNG: -0.02											
3,000	2,800	JORDAN ASSURANCE	12.0	5.16	1	1000	2800	2.80	3.80	-	
3,010	3,450	JORDAN C. & F. INSUR.	9.0	0.00	3	150	350	2.45	2.33	-0.13	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 112.48 CHNG: -0.34											
1,820	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	7.9	6.10	4	1800	2952	1.64	1.64	-	
1,380	930	WATL. PORTFOLIO	8	0.00	5	2550	3062	1.20	1.15	-0.05	
1,030	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.1	6.90	3	14990	13049	.87	.87	-	
830	480	JORDAN INT. TRAD.	26.2	0.00	4	250	129	.52	.51	-0.01	
7,570	3,960	AD-DUSTOUR	30.3	4.13	4	3000	2963	2.96	2.90	-0.06	
1,720	2,900	ARAB TECH. INV. EDUC.	7.4	0.00	4	1300	3190	2.80	2.80	-	
1,220	980	JARCA EDUCATION	9	0.00	5	3600	2492	.97	.97	-	
1,010	650	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	6	3750	2438	.65	.65	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.96 CHNG: -0.15											
4,450	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.1	2.74	44	126190	506325	4.01	4.02	-0.01	
4,140	3,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	4	14823	58544	3.95	3.95	-	
7,080	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	13.4	3.02	11	56071	378223	6.69	6.62	-0.07	
10,250	4,750	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.3	9.21	6	181	3600	9.65	9.65	-	
4,000	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	10.6	5.33	24	29030	110455	3.65	3.63	-0.03	
1,480	1,310	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	17.1	4.55	1	110	207	2.40	1.38	-0.02	
10,550	7,410	ARAB CHEM. INDUS.	11.6	4.26	1	100	705	7.43	7.05	-0.36	
5,860	4,250	DAN AL-DUNIA INV. INV.	13.5	4.55	17	27450	149590	5.43	5.49	-0.06	
3,850	3,850	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.6	8.53	4	305	854	2.88	3.60	-0.08	
950	1,450	STEVESIDE & POLYMER	9.9	0.00	12	17267	8124	.48	.47	-0.01	
1,310	1,020	ARAB PAPER CORP. IND.	31.8	0.00	6	2000	2070	1.05	1.04	-0.01	
800	530	NATURAL GAS	9	0.00	3	800	415	.55	.54	-0.01	
1,330	610	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	17	6950	4113	.61	.59	-0.02	
3,330	2,130	WATL. CABLE WIRE-MFG.	40.4	0.00	7	3000	1260	3.65	3.52	-0.13	
1,950	1,550	JOR. SUGAR CORP.	12.9	0.00	7	3100	1815	.55	.55	-	
1,670	1,120	ARAB FRUIT CORP.	17.7	9.04	1	500	895	1.39	1.39	-	
2,400	1,310	UNIV. WTR. TRNS.	9	2.0	19	15500	20167	1.23	1.30	-0.07	
1,520	1,120	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	14.9	9.03	7	4000	4440	1.12	1.11	-0.01	
1,600	1,300	WATL. CHEMICALS	13.8	4.79	1	300	438	1.49	1.46	-0.03	
1,600	860	JOR. FEN CABLE CO.	15.6	0.00	23	14100	13181	.86	.85	-0.01	
2,090	1,500	EL-DAY READY WEAR	51.0	0.00	10	13650	15389	1.50	1.45	-0.05	
1,310	1,080	WATL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	3	1350	1438	1.14	1.15	-0.01	
1,360	860	UNION C. & VEG.	39.6	0.00	9	4250	3715	.89	.87	-0.02	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 137.04 CHNG: -0.45											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 158.59 CHNG: -0.37											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE LIST FOR SATURDAY 21/06/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	500	190	.39	.38	-0.01	
700	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	12.8	0.00	3	2000	960	.49	.48	-0.01	
840	660	UNION INV. SOI	9	0.00	5	8930	1611	.68	.68	-	
700	370	ARAB FIB. INDVST.	9	0.00	21	38510	17777	1.77	.76	-0.02	
950	730	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	9	0.00	1	250	128	.76	.76	-0.03	
950	610	AL-DUNIA INV. 751	60.5	0.00	3	3900	1102	.64	.63	-0.01	
1570	1,200	JOR. INDUS. ESTABLISHMENT	11.5	0.00	3	2450	544	.23	.23	-	
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	5	2550	860	.55	.55	-	
750	400	MATL. PETL. ENW. ROMEDCO	9	0.00	57	106650	62850	.63	.59	-0.04	
960	900	JOR. CEMENT CONCRETE	11.5	0.00	1	10000	9500	.94	.95	-0.01	
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.0	6.85	10	14850	10939	.74	.73	-0.01	
1,220	860	UNION TOBACCO 751	9	0.00	3	3900	1656	.50	.49	-0.01	
700	510	WATL. FIBER 851	9	0.00	2	3150	495	.57	.58	-0.01	
600	370	INDUS. ENRG.	23.4	0.00	14	12550	4774	.37	.38	-0.01	
1,000	810	MATL. ALUMINUM 751	9	0.00	3	1350	713	.82	.82	-	
870	530	WATL. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	12.38	7	8350	5128	.66	.65	-0.01	
GRAND TOTAL 239 304850 115724											

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKET

Ronaldo moves to Inter

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (R) — Brazilian striker Ronaldo ended months of speculation over his future by signing a five-year contract with Italian Club Internazionale on Friday.

But Barcelona insisted that Ronaldo still belonged to them.

Josep Maria Antras, the club's lawyer, said the Spanish Football Federation had not yet authorised the transfer.

Ronaldo's agent Alexandre Martins announced the signing in Santa Cruz.

"A contract was signed between Ronaldo and Internazionale for a period of five years," he said.

"He will present himself to the club on July 1 for a medical and then he will go on holiday."

Martins said the financial details of the deal would be announced by the club in Italy.

Earlier, Ronaldo, with the national team at the Copa America, said at the team's hotel: "I am very happy. This is a problem that has been affecting the national team and now it is out of the way."

Inter's technical director Luis Suarez said: "Internazionale are very happy. We have signed a very important player."

Ronaldo's form appears to have suffered as the seemingly interminable negotiations have dragged on.

He scored two goals in the team's opening Copa America game against Costa Rica but his displays in the subsequent two matches were patchy and he was substituted in Thursday's 2-0 win over Colombia.

The deal was announced shortly after Ronaldo's lawyer in Spain said he had paid the four billion pesetas



Brazil's star striker Ronaldo watches a soccer ball soar above a volleyball net during his team's training session in preparation for the quarter-finals phase of the Copa America June 20. Ronaldo's representatives announced June 20 that the star signed a 5-year contract with the Italian club Inter-Milan for an undisclosed amount. Ronaldo's pass from the Spanish club Barcelona was worth some \$30 million (Reuters photo).

(\$27.5 million) necessary to release the player from his contract with Barcelona.

Although the payment technically makes Ronaldo a free agent, a FIFA circular has decreed that only Spanish clubs are allowed to sign him without negotiating with Barcelona.

"From today the player no longer belongs to

Barcelona," said Fernando Rey, the Brazilian's lawyer. Negotiations to keep Ronaldo at Barcelona broke down at the end of last month.

Martins did not mention the problem as he read an official message announcing Ronaldo's signing. He said afterwards: "This is a matter our lawyers are dealing with."

Antras said he thought that the conflict between Barcelona and Inter would eventually be settled by FIFA. "It will be FIFA, in

the end, who decides who is right and if the Italian club then want to negotiate with Barcelona, we can sit down at the (negotiating) table."

Antras also pointed out that Rey had not paid sales tax on the four billion pesetas deposited with Spain's Professional Football League in accordance with the terms of the contract.

"In Ronaldo's contract it is very clear that the sums have to include this tax," he said.

Real sign Redondo, Mijatovic in world record deal

MADRID (R) — Newly-crowned Spanish champions Real Madrid signed new deals on Friday with Montenegrin striker Predrag Mijatovic and Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo which will keep the players at the club into the next century.

Under the contracts, a club wanting to buy either player would have to pay a world record \$150 million for Mijatovic and \$100 million for Redondo.

Mijatovic will stay with Real until 2003 and Redondo until 2002.

On Wednesday Real had already created a record by putting a price of \$100 million on Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos.

"I'm the new record holder but I'm sure it won't be for long," Mijatovic said.

Real President Lorenzo Sanz said that he hoped to renew striker Davor Suker's contract in the next few days.

In other developments on Friday, Real coach Fabio Capello was left speechless and close to tears in a television interview when asked what could have kept him at the Madrid club.

A tearful Capello, who will return to AC Milan next season, handed the table and indicated he wanted to end the interview.

Also in the spotlight on Friday was Real's German international goalkeeper Bodo Illgner, who denied that he was unhappy with the Madrid club.

"It seems strange and serious to me that everybody should say I will not stay in real Madrid...I'm happy here," Illgner said.

Recent media reports have suggested that the rest of the Real squad were unhappy that Illgner had missed all the team's celebrations for securing the Spanish title. Some speculated that he would follow coach Capello to AC Milan.

Illgner was brought to Spain from Cologne because Capello felt the team needed a taller goalkeeper.

In preparation for Pan-Arab Games Syria beats Jordan again

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria's women's national basketball team Saturday beat their Jordanian counterparts 81-52 in the second friendly match which comes as part of their preparations for the Pan-Arab Games scheduled to begin in Beirut July 12-27.

Syria had won the first match 61-43 and Jordanian team and federation officials hoped the team would fare better as an evaluation for the upcoming games in which Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia will contest the women's basketball event in addition to Jordan and Syria.

While the Kingdom's team had better rebounding and scoring the players again seemed to lack effective teamwork and committed many turnovers a fact the players attributed to the lack of match practice and the regrouping of the team only prior to a particular competition.

Players also criticised the fact that they were playing with the pressure of being evaluated for competition in less than two weeks time and not being given the chance to gain experience through participation regardless of the results.

Syria took an early lead in the match despite being held to low scoring by the effective defence of the Jordanian teams.

Six consecutive points by team captain Rana Hussein cut Syria's lead to

16-10, however, Syria scored through Elizabeth Mouradian and Rula Zarqa to increase their lead 25-12.

Syria ended the first half 33-23. The second half started on a confident note for the Syrians who increased their lead through effective shooting to widen the gap to 45-30 and 53-32.

Effective man-to-man defence led to a 7-0 run by Jordan with Hala Khalaf, Hind Al Ghouri and Lubna Masri taking hold of the match before Tamara Khadra scored a three pointer to lessen the gap to 56-42.

While Ghouri scored and playmaker Hala Muheisen tried to break the full court press defence of the visiting teams however turnovers, lack of concentration and match experience made the ultimate difference as Syria won the match 81-52.

The men's team had lost to Jordan 90-78 (41-52) in their first match.

The national team includes Rana Hussein, Rania Dajani, Hala Muheisen, Sirsa Naghaway, Hala Ghattas, Lubna Masri, Luma Abu Judum, Tetyana Qardan, Tamara Khadra, Indira Qasesieh, Hind Ghouri, Hala Khalaf, Tala Al Mauge, Zina Farah, Jumana Salti, currently studying in the U.S., will be joining the team next week.

The Syrian women's and men's teams will conclude their matches at the Sports Palace at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. tonight.

Chang survives scare to reach semis

ROSMALLEN, Netherlands (R) — Top seed Michael Chang survived a fright before overcoming Spain's Francisco Clavet to reach the semifinals of the Heineken Trophy grass-court tournament on Friday.

After losing the first set to the eighth-seeded Spaniard through a tie-break, American Chang saved three match points in the tie-break of the second set, which he eventually won 10-8.

Chang then took charge against a tiring Clavet to win 6-7 7-6 6-1 and set up a potentially exciting semifinal showdown with Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek.

Dutchman Krajicek, the third seed, needed two tie-breaks before moving past unseeded Czech Martin Damm 7-6 7-6.

Swede Jonas Bjorkman, seeded fourth, and Frenchman Guillaume Raoux will meet in the other semifinal.

Bjorkman and Raoux recorded straight-sets victories over Dutchmen Fernin Wieber and Sjeng Schalken respectively.

In the women's competition, top seed Anke Huber of Germany and Miriam



Michael Chang

Oremans of the Netherlands saw their close semifinal battle halted by rain after each winning a set.

Huber had claimed the first set 6-4 and unseeded Oremans had taken the second, also 6-4, when the match was interrupted.

The decisive set will be played on Saturday and the winner will go on to meet

third seed Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania in the final later on Saturday.

Perec drops out of French European Cup team

PARIS (R) — Double Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec of France has dropped out of the European Cup, deciding not to join the French team in Munich on Saturday.

Perec announced her decision in a statement after arriving in Paris from California, where she trains.

The Olympic 200 and 400 metres champion said earlier that she had decided against running in the 400 metres hurdles at the World Championships in Athens in August to concentrate on the 400 metres flat.

She will appear in the 200 metres at a grand prix meeting in Paris on Wednesday, the organisers said.

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WEST: ♠ A J 10 9 7 4, ♥ Q J 8, ♦ A 10 8, ♣ J 7
EAST: ♠ A 8 2, ♥ Q 3 2, ♦ K J 9 8 4, ♣ K 10 9 2
SOUTH: ♠ A A Q, ♥ K 10 8 6 5, ♦ Q 8 2, ♣ A K 4
The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ 1♥ 2♥ 2♠
2♠ 3♥ 3♥ 3♥
3♥ 4♥ 4♥ 4♥
Opening lead: Jack of ♠
How does an expert plan the play of the hand? Follow the thought process as we take you through a typical deal.
First, note North's decision to raise hearts with three-card support rather than bid spades. The hand is not worth two bids, and it is important to tell partner you have a playable trump suit as soon as possible.
Against four hearts West leads the jack of spades, and your first task is to count possible losers. Assuming a normal 3-2 trump split, South has one trump, three diamonds and one club to concede. However, the club can be discarded on the king of spades and a diamond can be ruffed in dummy.
When you have to ruff, you cannot afford to cash even one high heart lest the opponents are able to remove dummy's last trump, so after winning the first trick in hand, you must immediately lead a diamond. It does not help the defenders to shift to trumps now, so assume East wins and reverse to spades. You win and lead another diamond.
West takes this trick and perseveres with spades. Since East might be out of spades, withhold your king and ruff in hand. Now take advantage of being in the closed hand to ruff a diamond on the table.
It is not yet the right time to play the king of spades. First draw two rounds of trumps with the king and ace. Now, when you lead the king of spades, it makes no difference whether or not the defenders can ruff with the master trump. You will discard a club in any event, and lose only two diamond tricks and a trump.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "1" Laurence Fishburne, Stephen Baldwin & Salma Hayek ... in FLED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "2" Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn & Bette Midler ... in THE FIRST WIVES CLUB • BALTO Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA CHAIN REACTION Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Tom Cruise...in JERRY MAGUIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 CONCORD "2" Michael Jordan...in SPACEJAM Shows: 3:30, 6:00	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 The actors are on annual leave The theatre will reopen July 2, 1997
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Wihdat request to meet Prince Abdullah, insist on stand

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's 1996 soccer champions Al Wihdat reiterated their position that their team will boycott the Premier League and Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Cup and said the club rejects threats by JSF to relegate them from the Premier League to first division, club spokesman Khader Sowwan said Saturday.

Mr. Sowwan said that his club has requested to meet with JSF chairman HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent, to discuss with him the club's decision to pull out from the season's contests.

Al Wihdat's decision was a result of the JSF's decision to reallocate ticket sales revenue among the clubs. The decision includes distributing 28 per cent of the total revenue of the match to the clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent will be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 32 per cent will go to the JSF while the remaining 5 per cent will be given to first and second division clubs.

"Al Wihdat's decision to resume participation in JSF contests is linked with our meeting with Prince Abdullah whose judgement we do respect," Mr. Sowwan said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Last Thursday, Al Wihdat boycotted their first match in the 1997 Premier League contests against Al Baqaa club. Mr. Sowwan said that if the meeting with the JSF president did not take place until Friday, Al Wihdat will boycott their next

match with Al Ahli, scheduled for June 27.

Mr. Sowwan said that the JSF decision was "unjust" towards his club and emphasised that Al Wihdat will continue its boycott "until a fair decision is adopted for ticket sales revenues."

JSF Secretary General Hisham Asfour was quoted by Arabic daily newspapers that the Federation is considering relegating Al Wihdat as a punishment for their boycott of the Premier League contests, which carry a JD2,000 fine.

Mr. Sowwan lashed out at the JSF secretary general and accused him of being responsible for the "hasty decisions that caused the confusion and the misinformation for the JSF chairman."

"(Mr.) Hisham Asfour's provocative steps are responsible for what happened," said Mr. Sowwan adding that his club requested the postponement of their match with Al Baqaa until a fair solution is made, but "Mr. Asfour insisted that the match be held on time (last Thursday)."

He said that when Al Wihdat rivals Al Faisali decided to boycott the final match of the Federation Shield because of their insistence on foreign referees. Mr. Asfour did not take any action against Al Faisali. But when we called for postponement of our match with Al Baqaa he did not agree and now he wants to punish us.

According to the JSF's regulations the team not showing up for a scheduled match is considered as loser by 3-0 result and a stiff penalty is imposed.

Brazil officials reverse ban, relegations

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian Club Atletico Paranaense won a reprieve from a year-long ban from competition and two relegated clubs were reinstated to the first division in a major about-face by soccer bosses on Sunday after a day's rest.

Only Uruguay in Group A and Brazil in Group B are assured of pre-quarter-final spots from three of the six groups which will be decided on Sunday.

The decision sparked noisy demonstrations by Atletico fans. On Thursday Brazil's sports minister Pele added his voice to the chorus of protest, saying the decision was unfair.

CBF directors met to discuss the case and issued a statement saying the club would be allowed to take part in the 1997 Brazilian championship.

The statement also said Fluminense and Bragantino, who were relegated from the First Division in 1996, would be restored to the top flight.

World Youth Cup Tense rivals prepare for last-ditch battle

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — An air of uncertainty looms large as the jostle for knock-out berths in the World Youth Football Championships resumes on Sunday after a day's rest.

Only Uruguay in Group A and Brazil in Group B are assured of pre-quarter-final spots from three of the six groups which will be decided on Sunday.

The race is wide open in Group C with Ghana leading the table with four points, just one ahead of the United States and Ireland.

China brings up the rear with a solitary point. Ghana could still be out of the tournament if they lose to the United States and Ireland completes an expected victory over China in Sunday's last round at Alor Setar.

Even China has a chance to finish among the top two, provided they beat Ireland and the United

States stumble against Ghana.

"Our group was considered one of the easiest, but not any longer," said Irish coach Brian Kerr. "If Group B is the group of death than ours is worse than death group. It all boils down to the last game."

With Brazil already through in Group B, the last match between France and South Africa at Kuching will decide the other knock-out spot.

France, with four points, need only a draw to go through while the South Africans (one point) must win. But South African captain Matthew Booth is not willing to concede defeat yet.

"We're not out yet and the French better be on their toes," Booth said. "They have looked good but we may surprise them."

Asian champions South Korea, who have one

point, are faced with the unenviable task of defeating Brazil to stay in the tournament.

"I know our chances against Brazil are very low, but it can be done," South Korean coach Park Lee-Chun said. "Anyway we don't have much choice but to pray for a miracle."

Brazilian coach Toninho Barroso, however, warned against taking the South Koreans lightly.

"Every game is important for us," he said. "It's still not certain we will top our group and that is what I want because we will then stay in Kuching till the semi-finals."

Barroso has reason to worry about Sunday's match after South Africa kept them scoreless till the 53rd minute on Thursday.

The South Africans played a tough game and hardly gave us space to move. But our boys picked up well in the second

half."

Uruguay lead Group A with six points, two more than Morocco, their opponents on Sunday. Belgium follow with one point while hosts Malaysia have drawn a blank so far.

Belgium could finish second if they beat Malaysia in the first game at Shah Alam and Uruguay defeat Morocco later in the evening.

But Morocco have the advantage of knowing whether a draw will see them through.

Malaysia themselves have a last chance of qualifying as one of the four best third-place finishers if they upset Belgium with a big margin.

The top two and four more teams from the six groups will advance to the pre-quarter-finals. The last round of matches in Groups D, E and F will be played on Monday.

Griffey grand slam helps Mariners beat Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (R) — Ken Griffey Jr. hit a Grand Slam as the Seattle Mariners extended their lead atop the American League West to three games with a 5-4 victory over the second-place Texas Rangers Friday.

Griffey's League-leading 25th homer gave the Mariners a 5-0 lead in the fifth inning. His ninth career Grand Slam tied him with Alvin Davis for the Team Record.

"Junior had the big bomb with the bases loaded and we made it hold up," said Seattle manager Lou Piniella.

"Junior is junior. He's capable of breaking the game open like he did today. Sometimes you come to expect too much. He's such a great talent that with greatness comes great expectations."

Bob Wolcott pitched five-plus innings for his first win in two months. Wolcott (3-4) allowed four runs and six hits with two walks and a strikeout.

Bob Wells and Norm Charlton combined to pitch three scoreless innings before Scott Sanders allowed one hit and struck out one in a scoreless ninth for his second save.

"We got excellent work out of the bullpen," said Piniella.

Bobby Witt (8-4) was reached for five runs and seven hits over six innings for his fourth loss in five decisions after beginning the season with seven

straight wins.

Texas Slugger Juan Gonzalez, last season's American League most valuable player, was hit by a pitch by Wolcott in the fifth inning and left in the seventh to be taken to a hospital.

"He would have had one more at-bat with nobody on and two outs," Texas manager Johnny Oates said of Gonzalez. "If he hits a home run, that would have made a difference. Anytime you take the A.L. MVP out of the lineup, whether he's swinging the bat well or not, you are going to miss him."

In Cleveland, Dwight Gooden allowed four hits over six innings and Tino Martinez hit his 22nd homer to cap a three-run first inning as the New York Yankees continued their dominance at Jacobs

field with a 7-1 victory over the Indians.

Gooden (2-0) gave up one unearned run, walked two and struck out two in his third start of the season and first win since April 5. He is 3-0 in career starts against the Indians.

Derek Jeter had three hits for the Yankees, who have won seven straight at Jacobs field and are 13-2 there all-time. New York also moved 10 games over the .500 mark for the first time this season.

In Toronto, Pat Hentgen pitched a six-hitter for his third straight complete game and Orlando Merced had three hits including an RBI double to lead the Blue Jays to a 3-0 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Hentgen (8-3) walked one and struck out four for his third shutout of the season and ninth of his career.

Last season's Cy Young award winner is 6-3 lifetime against the Orioles.

Baltimore's Mike Mussina (8-2) had won eight straight decisions since losing his first start of the season.

In Detroit, Melvin Nieves and Phil Nevin homered to power a 16-hit attack as the Tigers defeated Boston 12-6, ending the Red Sox' four-game winning streak and sending them back to the American League East cellar.

The Tigers also broke a 10-game losing streak to the Red Sox, beating Boston for the first time since last June 27.

Justin Thompson (7-5) allowed eight hits and five runs in five innings, but picked up the win as the Tigers provided him with uncharacteristic offensive support.

In his previous five starts, Detroit managed just 10 runs and was shut out twice as Thompson went 2-3 despite allowing just six runs in 37.1 innings (1.45

era).

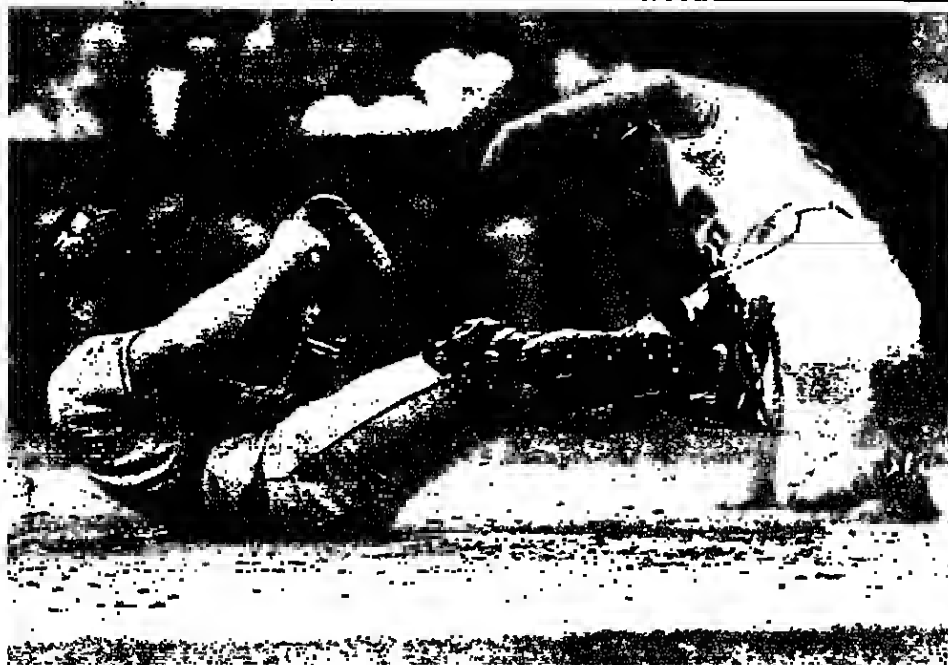
In Milwaukee, Jeromy Burnitz's one-out homer off Tim Lincecum broke a seventh-inning tie and lifted the Brewers to their fourth straight win, 7-5 over the Kansas City Royals.

In Anaheim, Kevin Gross allowed two runs and four hits over 5 2/3 innings in his first start of the season and Tim Salmon hit a three-run homer in the first as the Angels beat the Oakland Athletics for the fifth straight time, 5-2.

Gross, recalled from triple-A Vancouver before the game, walked five but striking out seven.

In Chicago, Bob Tewksbury (4-6) allowed three hits over six innings and Manny Cudova hit a two-run homer as the Minnesota Twins blanked the White Sox 3-0 for their third straight win.

The loss dropped the White Sox into last place in the American League Central, one-half game behind the Twins.



Kansas City Royals catcher Mike MacFarlane (L) holds onto the ball after tagging out Milwaukee Brewers baserunner Jeromy Burnitz in the first inning at County Stadium in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 20. Burnitz attempted to score from first base on a single by Dave Nilsson (Reuters photo)

Mets' Bobby Jones beats Pirates for 12th win

NEW YORK (R) — Bobby Jones became the first 12-game winner in the majors and Rookie Jason Hardie drove in the game's only run as the New York Mets edged the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0 Friday.

Jones (12-3) bounced back from his first loss in more than seven weeks, to the Boston Red Sox, by limiting the Pirates to six singles over 8 2/3 innings. He walked two and struck out eight in improving to 4-1 lifetime against Pittsburgh.

"I looked back at the Boston game and saw what got me in trouble," Jones said. "I made some adjustments, moved the ball around, kept it low and threw strikes. My curve ball was as good as it has been."

"He pitched one of his best games of the year tonight," said Mets manager Bobby Valentine.

In Houston, Derek Bell's three-run homer, his first in more than five weeks, capped a four-run third inning and Darryl Kile won for the seventh time in eight decisions as the Astros banded the Chicago Cubs their third straight loss, 7-3. Houston's Luis Gonzalez tied Art Howe's club record (1981) by extending his hitting streak to 23 games.

"I'm not thinking about the streak. I just want to win these games within our division," said Gonzalez, a former cub.

Kevin Orie drove in all three runs for Chicago. In San Francisco, pinch-

hitter Nelson Liriano's two-run double in the top of the 10th highlighted a four-run outburst as the Los Angeles Dodgers recovered from blowing a seven-run lead to defeat the Giants 11-7.

In Montreal, Alex Fernandez pitched a three-hitter and Charles Johnson had a homer in the fifth and an RBI triple in the seventh as the Florida Marlins beat the Expos 2-1.

The loss snapped a nine-game home winning streak for the Expos, who have won 11 of their last 13 overall.

Fernandez (7-6) allowed just an RBI double to Chris Widger in the second with three walks and four strikeouts in his third complete game of the year. The righty retired the final 16 batters and did not allow a hit after the second inning.

In Philadelphia, Tom Glavine pitched a seven-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Andrew Jones had a two-run double in a four-run sixth inning as the Atlanta Braves handed the Phillies their sixth straight loss, 4-1.

Atlanta played without starters Kenny Lofton (strained groin), Michael Tucker (pulled muscle in right side) and Javier Lopez (bruised left knee).

Mark Leiter (4-8) is winless in his last six starts.

In San Diego, Archi Cianfrocco's run-scoring double snapped an eighth-inning tie as the Padres stopped a five-game losing streak with a 5-2 win over the Colorado Rockies.

Andy Ashby (3-3) allowed two runs and nine hits in eight innings for the first win by a San Diego starter since Will Cunnane also beat Colorado on June 4.

In St. Louis, Deion Sanders and Pokey Reese hit solo homers and Kent Mercker (5-5) allowed just two runs over six innings as the Cincinnati Reds handed the Cardinals their fifth straight loss, 4-2.

Cincinnati won for the ninth time in 13 games.



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American League			
NY Yankees	7	Cleveland	1
Detroit	12	Boston	6
Toronto	3	Baltimore	0
Minnesota	3	Chi White Sox	0
Milwaukee	7	Kansas City	5
Seattle	5	Texas	4
Anaheim	5	Oakland	2

National League			
Florida	2	Montreal	1
Atlanta	4	Philadelphia	1
NY Mets	1	Pittsburgh	0
Houston	7	Chicago Cubs	3
Cincinnati	4	St. Louis	2
San Diego	5	Colorado	2
Los Angeles	11	San Francisco	7 (In 10)

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* CVs are to be addressed to the General Manager and sent to fax no. 972-9-375945
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(L to R) German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair look for their name tags during a group photo Friday at the Phipps House in Denver, CO. The leaders are in Denver for the Summit of the Eight (Photo by AFP)

G7 leaders plus Yeltsin start meetings with broad agenda

DENVER (R) — President Bill Clinton urged world leaders on Saturday to pool their strength to attack global economic and security problems as he opened the second day of a Group of Seven summit.

U.S. President Boris Yeltsin seated at his right hand. "None of our nations can meet these challenges alone. But more than ever, our summit process is an engine of common progress," Mr. Clinton said in opening remarks with the leaders assembled at a round wooden table in a blue-carpeted conference room at the Denver Public Library.

The leaders of the United States, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, Britain and Canada had a broad agenda for their session, including stability in the world financial system and common security problems such as international crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, environmental decay, weapons proliferation and the spread of infectious diseases.

President Clinton gave a special welcome to the 66-year-old Kremlin leader who only a year ago was fighting for his life from

heart problems but is now back to his old ebullient self.

"I want to say a special welcome to our friend President Yeltsin, who joins us for the first time from the beginning to the end of this meeting. Russia's growing role in the shared world of market democracies reflects the progress and the potential of this age," Mr. Clinton said.

President Yeltsin is excluded from only one summit meeting, an hour-long afternoon session on international economic and financial matters.

Stressing the need for international harmony, Mr. Clinton said: "If we pool our strength we can achieve great things for all our peoples and the world."

But his summit colleagues expressed concern to him at a working dinner on Friday night about U.S. plans to withdraw troops from a NATO peacekeeping force in Bosnia next year.

Ways to prevent a new cycle of bloodshed in Bosnia figured prominently in the dinner discussions.

Officials said the leaders also agreed to send a Japanese envoy to assess the situation in Cambodia,

where the government has announced the capture of Khmer Rouge strongman Pol Pot.

President Clinton aide, Dan Tarullo, told reporters that "a number of leaders expressed concern about the stated U.S. date for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Bosnia next year."

U.S. troops number 8,500 out of the 31,000-strong NATO force policing a fragile peace in Bosnia. It is scheduled to withdraw in June 1998.

The Europeans fear an American pullout would lead to a collapse of the peacekeeping operation and favour a more flexible approach on the withdrawal date.

Diplomats have struggled to enforce political elements of the 1995 Dayton peace accords that separated Bosnia's former warring factions.

Nationalist authorities are complicating the situation by obstructing the return of refugees to conquered territory, and cooperation with war crimes inquiries is seen as behind schedule.

A source close to the French delegation said President Jacques Chirac made clear to Mr. Clinton

that the Europeans did not want to see unilateral withdrawal of Americans from Bosnia.

"The military and civil aspects of the Dayton accords being partially achieved, the unilateral withdrawal of the Americans would create a problem for the Europeans," the source said, adding that Britain agreed with the French position.

Mr. Clinton, under pressure at home to bring back U.S. troops, told his partners they were taking the "wrong focus, that rather than thinking about when troops would be leaving, it was more important the leaders be thinking about how to make the civilian peace process work in Bosnia," Mr. Tarullo said.

The leaders discussed assigning responsibilities to the countries involved in Bosnia peacekeeping to make the Dayton accords work, such as strengthening local police, promoting elections and resettling refugees.

The G7 leaders and Mr. Yeltsin are expected to issue a statement on Bosnia before ending the "Summit of the Eight" on Sunday.

Israeli thief praised for turning in bomb he mistakenly stole

TEL AVIV (R) — A drug-addicted Israeli thief was acclaimed by police as a model citizen Saturday after alerting them that a bag he stole from a crowded Tel Aviv beach contained a nail-packed bomb.

"This was a man known to us... who took the bag in order to try and steal things from it," Tel Aviv district police chief Nitzav Shlomo Aharonishki told army radio. "It wasn't exactly his goal, but the instant he positively identified the device, he demonstrated good citizenship... this is what we expect from other citizens."

Mr. Aharonishki said the thief had apparently prevented an attack aimed at Israeli bathers Friday afternoon but said police could not rule out the possibility that the 2-kg bomb was tied to a criminal dispute.

"Most of the ingredients, most of the findings indicate that we are talking about a terrorist attack... but we are also investigating other directions," he told the radio. He said security forces remained on high alert

against potential militant attacks. Middle East tensions have been rising over a three-month impasse in Israeli-Palestinian peace moves sparked by a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Aharonishki said the device was smaller than that used by a Muslim militant to blow up a Tel Aviv cafe in March, killing himself and three Israeli women, but said it was packed with nails and could have harmed many people.

He said police and security forces had made no arrests.

The thief, Moti Ashkenazi, denied he had intended to steal the bag.

"I was known to police because I was a drug-user. Because of this they built it up as if I was a thief," Mr. Ashkenazi told Israel Radio. "I didn't serve in the army. I didn't serve the state. Perhaps this is my contribution to the country."

"I hope after this someone will come and rehabilitate me."

Sinead sends letter to Jewish extremist

TEL AVIV (AP) — Sinead O'Connor who cancelled a peace concert in Jerusalem after her life was threatened sent an open letter Saturday to a Jewish extremist who had bragged he had scared the Irish singer away.

"As a child I remember watching television... I saw Israeli and Palestinian men beating each other in the streets of the very birthplace of their faiths. I felt saddened and frightened. I asked God then 'how can there be peace anywhere on earth if

there is not peace in Jerusalem?' I ask you that question now Mr. Ben Gvir." Ms. O'Connor gave a copy of the letter to the Associated Press. Her concert was to have taken place Saturday evening in Jerusalem and promote the city as a capital for both Israelis and Palestinians. She cancelled last week after the embassies of Britain and Ireland in Tel Aviv received death threats against her.

Egyptian girl dies before excision

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian prosecutors issued a warrant on Saturday for the arrest of a Cairo doctor after an 11-year-old girl died under anaesthesia for an excision (female circumcision) he was about to perform.

Amal Sayyed Bayyouni went into a coma after receiving the anaesthetic in the doctor's clinic on Friday and died shortly afterwards, judicial sources said.

Her mother had taken her to the doctor, Abdelwahhab Mohammad Abdelwahhab, for the operation, which

remains common for girls in Egypt despite the government's attempts to stamp it out.

Last year at least three Egyptian girls were reported to have died during circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation for the severe form it often takes.

The judicial sources said the doctor was wanted for questioning on possible manslaughter charges. The mother had agreed to pay the doctor 60 pounds, they added.

Bulgaria asks Turkey to back NATO ambitions

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov has asked Turkey to support his country's NATO membership ambitions, his office said on Saturday. Mr. Stoyanov postponed next week's scheduled visit to NATO member Turkey until after the formation of a new government in Ankara, but spoke by telephone on Friday night with his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel. A statement from the Bulgarian presidency said Mr. Stoyanov asked Mr. Demirel to support Bulgaria's application to join NATO, as they will now not meet until after an alliance summit in Madrid on July 8-9. "Suleyman Demirel assured the Bulgarian head of state that the membership of Bulgaria

and Romania in NATO is a natural part of the strengthening of its southern flank," the statement said. The United States said last week it favoured only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joining NATO in a first round of expansion into former communist eastern Europe. It opposed Romania and Slovenia, despite their support from other NATO members. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Bulgaria's foreign minister, Nadezhda Mihailova, on Monday the United States did not want to name countries for a future second round of enlargement. Ms. Mihailova struck a realistic note at a news conference on her return on Friday, saying Bulgaria, which only formally applied to join in

February, could not expect to become a member immediately. "For us, the most important thing is that the enlargement of NATO has begun and will continue," Ms. Mihailova said. "NATO is not going to accept us with our problems," Mr. Stoyanov's visit to Turkey, scheduled for June 23-25, was aimed at reviving relations damaged by communist-era mistreatment of Bulgaria's ethnic Turks. He planned to ask Mr. Demirel to intercede with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to remove Bulgaria from a list of countries which do not respect Muslim rights. The presidency said a new date for the visit had not yet been set. Mr. Stoyanov is due to visit Greece in early July.

Syria denies any role in Turkey-Kurdish conflict

DUBAI (AFP) — Syria denied Friday ever having had any responsibility in the long-running conflict between Turkey and the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). "Syria does not support the PKK which has no need of this, because this party has millions of supporters inside Turkey," said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara in a debate televised by Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC).

"The real problem is not outside Turkey but inside that country," said Mr. Sharara, urging Ankara to

"settle this problem from the inside instead of accusing other countries."

Turkish officials, most of them military officers, have accused Syria, Iraq, Iran, Armenia, Russia, Bulgaria and perhaps Romania, and of course Greece and Cyprus. Recently they added Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Libya to their list of enemy nations," he said.

"Certain people are pushing the Turkish military institution to poison the atmosphere between Turkey and Syria, with no reason," Mr. Sharara said, without specifying to whom

he was referring.

Mr. Sharara said Turkey, whose troops have been in northern Iraq since May 14 in an operation to eradicate PKK rear bases, was guilty of "violating international law."

"A state which pursues those it calls terrorists beyond its own borders, violates international law and international conventions," he said.

Iraq has accused Turkey of carrying out a "U.S.-Israeli plan aimed at destabilising not just Iraq but the whole region."

At Chirac's request Albright studying Lebanon travel ban

DENVER (R) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is taking a fresh look at the long-standing U.S. ban on travel to Lebanon by Americans, National Security adviser Sandy Berger said Friday.

He told reporters that Ms. Albright disclosed this during a meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac before the start of the annual Group of Seven summit.

The ban, which dates back to the mid-1980s, has been justified by U.S. officials on the grounds of a security threat to Americans in Lebanon, where civil war raged from 1975-91.

But Lebanese officials say their country is now safer than many others to which Americans are permitted to travel and argue that the ban is designed to push Beirut into making peace with Israel.

Mr. Berger said Ms. Albright "indicated that

she has this matter under review and would be making a new decision — at least taking a new look at it in the very near future."

Mr. Chirac told Mr. Clinton that he did not think the ban was justified any longer, Mr. Berger said.

The ban has been periodically reviewed by U.S. secretaries of state. Former Secretary Warren Christopher had been widely expected to relax it just before he left office in January, but did not do so.

Israel's Barak far ahead of Netanyahu in opinion poll

TEL AVIV (R) — An opinion poll released Friday showed opposition Labour leader Ehud Barak would crush Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by a margin of nearly two to one, were elections to be held this week.

Mr. Netanyahu's ruling coalition has been shaken by internal disputes, most recently a conflict in which the prime minister forced the resignation of Dan Meridor as finance minister.

The Dahaf Institute Poll, conducted Thursday, showed Mr. Barak would defeat Mr. Netanyahu by a margin of 51 per cent to 26. Israeli general elections

are scheduled for the year 2000, but a vote could come sooner if Mr. Netanyahu's slim six-vote majority in the 120-seat parliament should unravel.

Ex-army chief Mr. Barak took over the Labour leadership from Shimon Peres early this month, defeating three challengers in an internal party election.

Mr. Netanyahu beat Mr. Peres in an upset victory in May 1996 elections. Polls have shown Mr. Barak gaining steadily on Mr. Netanyahu since last month, when the two were neck-and-neck.

Seventeen Palestinians injured

(Continued from page 1)

line peace process policies of Israel's right-wing nationalist government, which is committed to expanding Jewish settlement building on occupied Arab land.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, meanwhile, 3,000 Palestinians held a protest against the U.S. congressional vote on June 10 recognising Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel, and several demonstrators burnt American and Israeli flags.

The administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton opposes the measure, saying it could hurt the peace process between Israel and the

Palestinians that Washington sponsors.

The U.S., like most of the world, has never recognised Israel's annexation in 1967 of east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of an independent state in an eventual peace deal with Israel.

The Israeli army had earlier banned Israelis from gaining access to Nablus, military officials said.

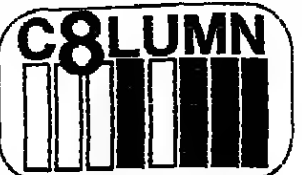
Tension has been mounting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as diplomatic efforts have shown no progress towards ending three months of deadlock over Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, on hold since

mid-March.

Egypt has been working intensively for the past several weeks to find common ground between the Israelis and Palestinians, but without tangible success.

The Palestinians pulled out of peace talks on March 18 after Israel began the construction of a Jewish settlement on the edge of Arab east Jerusalem.

They are demanding the Israelis stop all settlement building in the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem as a condition for returning to the negotiating table, something which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to do.



Fledgling fraudster lands in hot water

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian teenager hatched a cunning scam that raked in \$1,500 by convincing classmates that he had bribed investigators to turn a blind eye during end of year exams, press reports said Saturday. A total of 25 youngsters at a school in Quss in southern Egypt gave 18-year-old Nemein Mahdi their precious savings convinced they would be given a free hand to cheat their way to success, said the Akhbar Al-Yom daily. However, when exam day came the investigators were stricter than ever and gave no opportunity for large-scale cribbing — exposing the would-be racketeer to the fury of his comrades. Mahdi was soundly beaten by his victims before being handed over to the police. He told them he had hatched the plot to help pay for his brother's wedding.

Egyptian director files complaint against Time magazine

ROME (AFP) — Egyptian film director Youssef Shahnin has filed a complaint against the U.S. news magazine Time for failing to report that he won a major prize at the Cannes film festival, the director said Saturday while visiting Rome. Shahnin, 71, was unanimously awarded in May the 50th anniversary festival prize for the whole of his work during his 47-year career. The director said he first sent Time a letter of protest when his name did not figure in the magazine, but decided to lodge a complaint after receiving no reply. This is a serious case from the journalistic point of view, Shahnin told Italian newspaper L'Espresso in an interview published Saturday.

Spanish police break up 'white slave' trade network

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish police on Saturday said they had arrested 66 people and broken up a gang which imported young South Americans as prostitutes and forced them into a life of virtual slavery. The women were given passports, a return ticket to Spain, hotel bookings and between 1,000 and 2,000 dollars in cash to enable them to pose as wealthy tourists for Spanish border controls. But these were taken away as soon as they entered the country and they were forced into brothels where they were kept as virtual prisoners in inhuman conditions, a police statement said. Noting that the women were "of a low cultural and social level," the statement added: "While they knew what kind of work they were being brought here to do, they could not have imagined the harsh conditions in which they would be made to do it."

Sex-change women offer clues to obesity

DUBLIN (R) — People undergoing sex-change operations could offer important clues to why women find it so hard to lose weight than men, Dutch researchers said on Saturday. Jolanda Elbers and colleagues at Amsterdam's Hospital Vrije Universiteit said it seemed the male hormone testosterone suppressed levels of leptin, a hormone strongly linked to body fat. Women are known to have more leptin in their blood than men, women have more body fat, and more of the clinically obese people around the world are female than male. The level of leptin is probably set in puberty, which is why male-to-female transsexuals cannot gain enough body fat to have a truly feminine appearance using hormone treatment alone.